

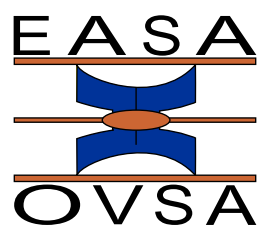
# NEWSLETTER 1

JUNE 2023



CONFERENCE VENUE: 8 – 11 JANUARY 2023

CENTURY CITY HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, CAPE TOWN





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## MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON

**Prof Funke Omidire**

It was almost a year ago that the EASA EXCO came to Cape Town for the conference site visit. We are thankful that the date has finally arrived and we are all here.

We are thankful that life has gradually returned to normal after over two years of social distancing! We are also thankful that the Association is moving from strength to strength due to the commitment of the Executive Committee who have maintained their consistent hard work on the various portfolios. EASA has continued in strengthening its position in establishing networks with international peers who do research in the field of education.

We continue to make our presence known internationally as a member of the World Education Research Association (WERA). In this forum, we have access to International Research Networks of colleagues working in various fields and across disciplines. Our members also have access to Doctoral and Early Career (DEC) networks. Prof Ruth Mampane maintains our collaborative relationship by representing EASA on the WERA Council. In 2022, Prof Raj Mestry represented EASA at the WERA Council Meeting in San Diego, USA.

We are proud that our past Chair, Prof Liesel Ebersohn is now the President-Elect of WERA. We want to congratulate her and wish her well during her tenure.

Thanks to the hard work of Prof Ronel Ferreira and her team, as our internationally accredited South African Journal of Education has continued to maintain its high standing as a leading journal in Education research in Africa. The impact factor of the journal has risen steadily and now stands at 0.853. We look forward to the regular publications and special issues planned for 2023.

Dr Fumane Khanare is in charge of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and has continued to encourage

EASA members to join SIGs in their fields. This is an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues with similar interests

across institutions and internationally. We look forward to the collaborations and partnerships that will emanate from the SIGs. Visit the EASA website for more information on how to join a Special Interest Group.

Despite emigrating to Canada, Dr Sameera Ayob-Esop continues to hold the portfolio for Internationalisation and Postgraduate Student Development. She is working hard on extending EASA's social media presence. We now have Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. Please remember to follow us on these platforms.

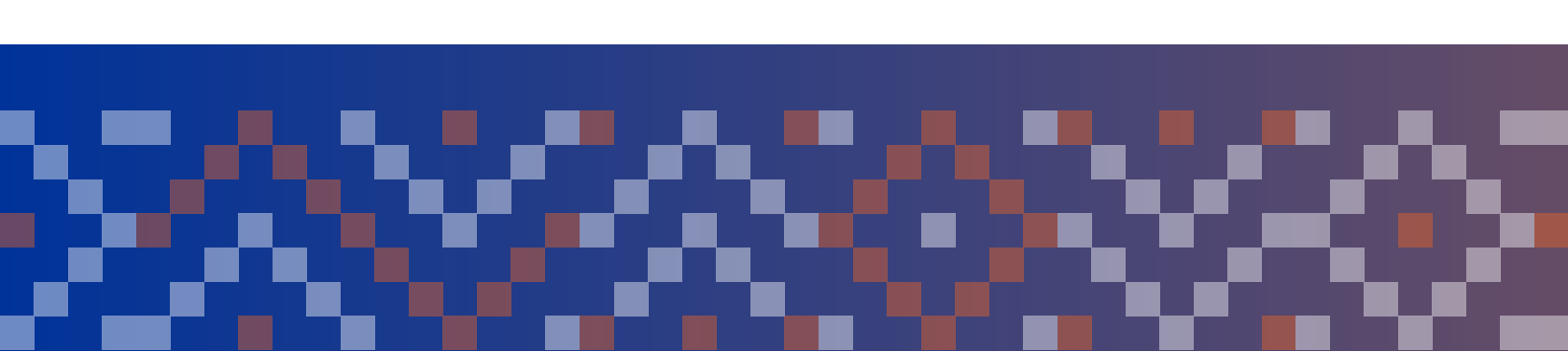
A special word of thanks to Prof Raj Mestry, our Treasurer, who has consistently maintained the finances of the association exceptionally well. We are happy to report that the finances are still stable and positive.

We have all through the year received communications from Prof Johnnie Hay who has tirelessly overseen the functions of the Secretariat with such excellence. We held our regular meetings during the year. Prof Hay has kept us updated on all the issues concerning EASA and its networks.

We have kept our website up to date with the hard work of Prof Elize du Plessis and her team. Prof du Plessis has been in charge of our website and has done an amazing job. We appreciate her efforts in ensuring all the relevant information is visible and up to date. All information relating to the Asso-







ciation's operations, activities and membership details are available on the website. Please visit the website. We would love to hear from you.

Despite all the good news and achievements, we do have to acknowledge with sadness that Prof Eldrie Gouws resigned. We appreciate all contributions she has made to the association over the years and she will be missed. We are glad that she has described her experience with EASA as a member and EXCO as enriching. We wish her the very best for the future.

Reflecting on the 2023 EASA annual conference, Cape Town, the conference theme, "*OCEANS OF WISDOM, MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE, WINDS OF CHANGE*" was in itself appealing and generated interesting topics for delegates. The need for change in the education sector was consistent among the delegates.

The keynote speakers were Prof Thuli Madonela (University of Stellenbosch), Prof Mbulungeni Madiba (University of Cape Town), Prof Irma Eloff (University of Pretoria) and Prof Piet Van Avermaet (Ghent University, Belgium). The keynote addresses generated robust thought-provoking discussions and motivating ideas for education future studies. Delegates were afforded the opportunities for further engagements with the speakers.

We had the privilege of welcoming international WERA delegates for a WERA Invited Symposium. The delegates were Prof Geovana Lurnard-Mendes from the State University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, Prof Ingrid Gogolin, University of Hamburg, Germany and Prof Woon Chia Liu, from the National Institute of Education, Singapore. The symposium was titled *Global winds of education change that matter for regional wisdom and knowledge*.

Other presentations covered basic, higher and teacher education, as well as open distance learning, and technical and vocational education. The topics included social justice in education, literacy in diversity, language-in-education, multilingualism, identity, assessment, technology, digital literacy, education innovation, community-based research and transformative leadership. It was a memorable occasion with ample opportunities for networking and collaboration.

It is noteworthy that the recipients of EASA awards over the past three years also received their physical awards during the award ceremony at the conference. Congratulations to everyone!

We want to thank Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and Two Oceans Graduate Institute for hosting the 2023 EASA Conference. We also want to thank Prof Candice Livingston, the conference chairperson, and her team for all the hard work put into the organisation and coordination relating to the conference; supported by Narina Basson and Marian Louw from Event Behella as conference administrators.

We welcome Dr Eugene Machimana and Prof Candice Livingston as Additional Members of the EASA EXCO. It has been an honour and exciting to serve the Association as Chairperson this year, and I want to use this opportunity to thank the EXCO for their support during my tenure as Chairperson and look forward to serving in the capacity of Outgoing Chairperson.

I am proud to welcome Prof Elize du Plessis the Association's Chairperson of 2023 - and wish her the very best in the role.

Thank you, everyone! Kind regards,

**Prof Funke Omidire**

## INTRODUCING THE 2023 EASA EXCO



**Prof Elize du Plessis**  
Chairperson and Website  
Coordinator



**Prof Johnnie Hay**  
Secretary



**Prof Motlalepule  
Mampane**  
WERA Representative



**Prof Raj Mestry**  
Treasurer



**Prof Ronel Ferreira**  
SAJE Executive Editor



**Prof Funke Omidire**  
Outgoing chairperson



**Dr Fumane Khanare**  
Incoming Chairperson and  
SIGs Coordinator



**Dr Sameera Ayob-Essop**  
International Collabo-  
ration & Postgraduate  
Involvement



**Prof Maximus Sefotho**  
2024 Conference  
Coordinator



**Dr Eugene Machimana**  
Additional member



**Prof Candice Livingston**  
Additional member



**Dr Tony Mpsi**  
Additional member

# MESSAGE FROM THE 2023 CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Prof Candice Livingston, [livingstonc@cput.ac.za](mailto:livingstonc@cput.ac.za)

The 2023 academic year commenced with a bang as EASA demonstrated to higher education institutions, both locally and internationally, what it means to present a high-level post-pandemic conference. The conference was held at the Century City Hotel and conference centre in Cape Town and took place between the 8th and 11th of January 2023.

Never before had it been necessary to cancel an Education Association of South Africa (EASA) conference due to a worldwide pandemic, but this was the unfortunate situation with the EASA conferences in 2021/2022. With EASA 2023, the educational world looked to the future with hope and positivity, as if looking over the vast ocean surrounding the delegates in Cape Town. The conference's theme was *Oceans of wisdom, Mountains of knowledge and The winds of change*. The local organising committee welcomed delegates from all over the world, to the Cape of Good Hope and we gathered to share findings and prospects and to savour the educational world like the salt from the sea. It was our wish that delegates would return to their institutions after the conclusion of this conference, enriched and refreshed and that the experience opened horizons of hope and confidence so that we can sail ahead and not be engulfed by storms of despair.

A noticeable aspect concerning abstract submission was that almost double the amount of the usual abstract registrations were submitted by prospective delegates. Prof Livingston said: "We had one objective, which was that the conference provided an ideal forum to open discussions about the educational landscape of today." The outgoing Chairperson of EASA 2022, Prof Funke Omidire, said: "We look forward to the keynote addresses of Prof Thuli Madonsela, Prof Mbulungeni Madiba, and the plenary sessions of Prof Irma Eloff and Prof Piet Van Avermaet. Furthermore, I want to seize this opportunity to show appreciation to our hosts Cape Peninsula University of Technology, the Two Oceans Graduate Institute, the Flemish Interuniversity Council and the organising committee, the conference administrators, and the EASA Executive

Committee, as we look forward to a memorable conference."

We were blessed to have been able to host esteemed keynote speakers and the titles of their presentations were as follows:

- Prof Thulisile Madonsela – Social Justice, Fragility and Education
- Prof Mbulungeni Madiba – Multilingualism, social justice, and inclusion in South African higher Education
- Prof Irma Eloff – Vignettes of sustainability: The role of teacher educators in supporting Agenda 2030
- Prof Piet Van Avermaet – Diversity, excellence and equity in education: An historically pressured symbiotic relationship

The Dean of Education at CPUT Prof Andile Mji stated that, "It is an absolute joy to be hosting this crucial academic event'. The event was opened by the Angelier Sang Koor and there was also the launch of a book titled 'Authenticity across Languages and Cultures: Themes of Identity in Foreign Language Teaching and Learning (2022)' which was edited by: Leo Will, Wolfgang Stadler, and Irma Eloff. The Gala dinner was a night of celebration, with Prof Dizo Plaatjies providing the entertainment for the evening, and many research medals being bestowed.

The following honours were awarded during the conference.

## 2020

- Research medal winner - C van der Westhuizen
- Postgraduate medal: Masters - TK Sebotsa and E Potgieter
- Postgraduate medal: PhD – S Ayob-Essop
- Emerging researcher award – S Malatji and I Tarling



## 2021

- Research medal winner - E du Plessis
- Postgraduate medal: PhD – M Verster and A Lubbe

## 2022

- Medal of Honour – M van Wyk
- Research medal winner - P du Plessis
- Postgraduate medal: PhD – M Entle Modise
- Postgraduate medal: Masters - D Ballantyne
- Emerging researcher award - Dr Eugene Machimana

The outgoing chairpersons were also recognised for their contributions:

- **2018** Outgoing Chairperson Award: Johnnie Hay
- **2021** Outgoing Chairperson Award: Tony Mpisi
- **2022** Outgoing Chairperson Award: Funke Omidire

As the chair of the local organising committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegates (both virtual and in person), who attended this conference and made it the success that it was. I would also like to thank the Flemish Interuniversity Council for the amazing sponsorship that we received from them in order to host a conference of this size and TOGI for their technical and financial support of this conference. A special thank you must go out to Prof Funke Omidire, Chair of the EASA Executive Committee and the entire EXCO,

for their unwavering support. The success of a conference of this nature and size is dependent on the dedication and hard work of the Local Conferencing Committee, without whom nothing would have been possible. I would specifically like to thank Dr Geo Westraadt, who took on the overwhelming job of completing the conference programme and coordinating the entertainment, Dr Dorothy Esau who served as Secretary of the LOC and Mrs Elma Fleischmann and her team for coordinating and arranging all the social functions for this conference. A thank you must also go to Prof Dippenaar who coordinated the Keynote Speakers and Ms Adrienne van As for her help with the design of the menus and other promotional items. I would also like to thank the other members of the committee for availing themselves to Chair sessions. Event Behella have been instrumental in the organisation of this conference and Narina Basson, Marian Louw and Joos Louw, who designed our fabulous website and abstract submission portal, have been absolute stars. Last but definitely not least, I would like to thank the star of the show Mr Clive Brown, our MC and programme director. His energy and professionalism are a pleasure to behold.

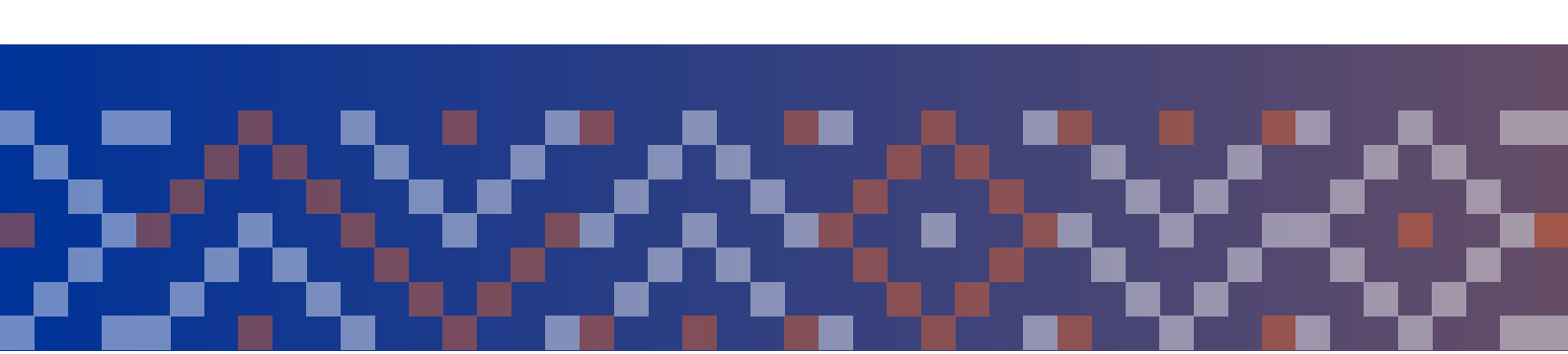
We look forward to seeing all the delegates again in Johannesburg in 2024!

## A GLIMPSE OF THE 2023 CONFERENCE

### DAY 1







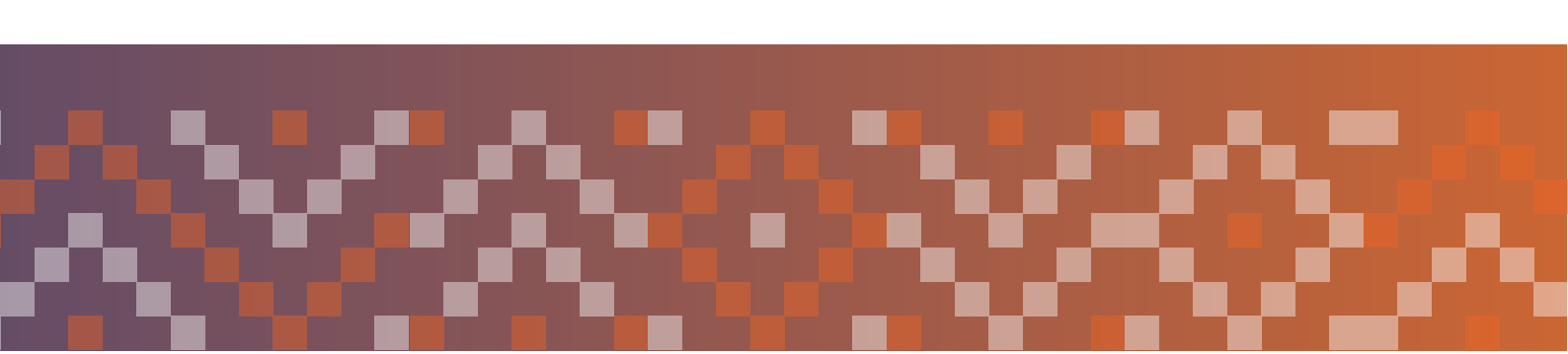
DAY 2



DAY 3

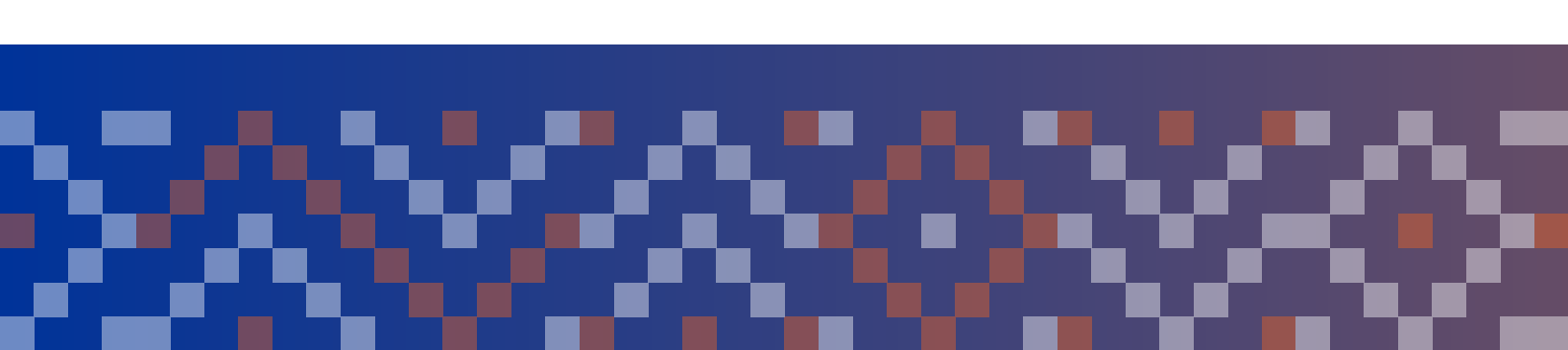






EASA EXCELLENCE





GALA DINNER





## DAY 4



## 2022 EASA AWARDS

The following honours were awarded during the conference. We included the 2020, 2021 and 2022 awards in this newsletter, since they were not included in the previous editions.

### 2020

#### Research Medal winner: Prof C van der Westhuizen



Christo Van der Westhuizen, PhD is currently a Professor in Learning Technologies in Technologies in the Department of Sciences and Technology Education at the Faculty of Education of the University of Johannesburg. He is an NRF-rated researcher in the field of 'ICTs in active, blended learning environments to foster self-directed learning' with application in different subject fields, primarily Geography Education, Computer Science Education, Engineering Graphics and Design Education, etc.

Current research projects and publications include: (1) Optimizing the community of inquiry's presences in online self-directed teaching and learning environments; (2) Fostering aspects of self-directed learning in teacher training through inquiry-based learning, personalized and adaptive instruction design, the integration of machine learning, learning analytics, and virtual & augmented reality.

He has been working in the field of teacher education for the past 22 years. He is an Editorial Board member of the Journal of Geography in Higher Education (JGHE). ORCID 0000-0002-4762-8538.





### Postgraduate medal: Master's – Mr TK Sebotsa and Mrs Erika Potgieter

My name is **Tswakae Sebotsa**, recipient of a postgraduate master's medal from the Education Association of South Africa (EASA). I am thirty-three years of age, for which twelve years have been committed to science education which is prevalent of two years in operational and strategic management, and leadership role at the University of Pretoria Pre-University Academy (UP-PUA). I am a former Physical and Natural Sciences lecturer at North-West University. As a Senior Programme and STEAM coordinator of the UP-PUA, I have assisted in developing and implementing a curriculum that intends to articulate and address the gaps between high schools and institutions of higher learning, and consequently addressing the 'elephant in the room', access and success in institutions of higher learning. I have experience in the enterprise of teaching Mathematics & Physics at the school & University level, research & community engagement. My research niche encompasses (a) the epistemological border-crossing between western science, indigenous knowledge (IK) & the arts, (b) the affordances of IK in the science classroom, & (3) students' and teachers' STEAM professional development. I attended a course on Aesthetic Education Immersion at the Lincoln Centre in New York to explore the role of arts in the Natural Sciences. I also contributed to book chapters and conference proceedings and obtained M. Ed in Physical Sciences education *cum laude*. The Teachers without Borders project in which I was involved got nominated in the "Science Oscars"- the project was a finalist, in the NSTF-South-32 awards.



I am **Erika Potgieter** – hallo. There is a need to think beyond 'why we teach how we teach, why learners learn how they learn'. What comes next? A critical question to think beyond the human. Therefore, my research is nested within the posthuman condition concerning Mathematics Education. I endeavour to address the question, "what comes next?", concerning engagement with research in Mathematics Education by "plugging-in" theory into data, back into theory in the sense of a (post) qualitative inquiry.



### Postgraduate medal: PhD – Dr Sameera Ayob-Essop

I am **Dr Sameera Ayob-Essop**, I am currently employed at the Halton District School Board in Canada as an Educational Psychologist. I am registered with the College of Psychologists Ontario and the Health Professions Council of South Africa. My experience includes being a lecturer at the University of Pretoria and having a private practice since 2016, focusing on psycho-educational assessments, therapeutic intervention, and family counselling.

My research interest includes specialised interventional strategies to support the educational, emotional, social and physical needs of students in school settings. I completed my PhD study in 2020 and was honoured with the EASA postgraduate medal in 2021. I am an executive member at EASA, serving in the International Collaboration and Postgraduate Student Involvement position. My role is to contribute to this fine association to promote a space where individuals can have access to a wide array of skills, knowledge and lasting education success.



### Emerging Researcher award: Prof Stephen Malatji and Dr Isabel Tarling

**Prof Khashane Stephen Malatji** holds a PhD in Education: Curriculum and Instructional Studies from the University of Fort Hare. He also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education for Academic Developers from Rhodes University. Prof Malatji is currently an Associate Professor at the University of South Africa in the College of Graduate Studies. He is the author of 74 articles in accredited journals. Prof Malatji has successfully supervised 21 Masters' (7 with cum laude) and 19 Doctoral students. In 2018, he was awarded Young Researcher of the Year by Tshwane University of Technology. In 2020 academic year, he received an award as Emerging Researcher of the year awarded by EASA. In 2021, he received an award as Senior Researcher of the year by TUT. Prof Malatji has delivered papers and chaired sessions at many national and international conferences. His research interest covers teaching and learning; evaluation of teaching, curriculum development; assessment; and teacher development in higher education.

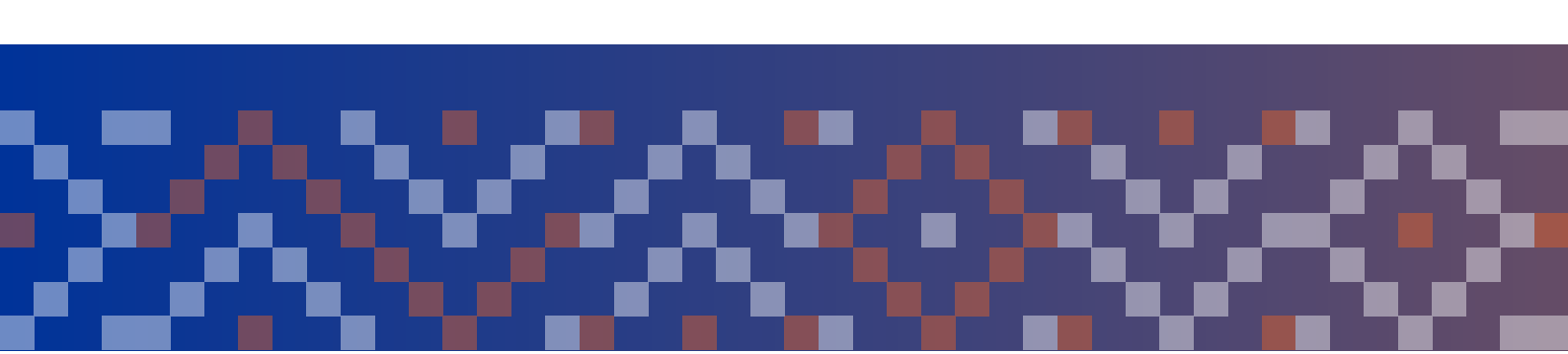
**Dr Tarling** is an ICT Integration specialist, holds a PhD in Education Technologies and Teacher Professional Development from UCT, and is the director of Limina's learning design division. Her extensive experience working with teachers from all phases, subjects and backgrounds, directly impacts the hands-on and change-driven teacher professional development courses she develops. In 2019 she was selected by the UNESCO chair at the Josef Stefan Institute, Slovenia, to create an online course for teachers as part of the Open Education for a Better World program. As an author, she is widely published and her research on teacher change is included in the National Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning. In July 2020 her adaption of the book, *Teachers Discovering Computers: Integrating Technology in the South African Classroom*, was published for teachers and teaching students. Dr Tarling passionately believes that the key to transforming teaching and learning lies in empowering all educators to create and innovate with technologies and to plan and manage change. This belief drives her to inspire all those in education to create and innovate with technologies, and to inspire others to do the same. Her research interests focus on Technology Integration in Discipline Specific areas, design thinking and developing socially embedded transformative programmes to support community-based innovation.

### 2021

#### Research medal winner: Prof Elize du Plessis



Elize du Plessis holds a DEd and has 34 years of experience in distance teaching. She is a full professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instructional studies at the University of South Africa (Unisa) and is involved in curriculum development in its School of Teacher Education. Her field of specialisation is curriculum development, teaching and learning and distance education. Elize is currently the programme coordinator of the Post Graduate Certificate in Education programme (Senior Phase and Further Education and Training). She is an experienced developer of course material for student teachers. She has made contri-



Contributions to several books and a variety of journals and presented papers at both national and international conferences. She published more than 50 journal articles. Elize is also a national and international reviewer for several academic journals and acts as supervisor for MEd and DEd students.



### Postgraduate medal: PhD – Marisa Verster and Anita Lubbe

**Dr Marisa Verster** is currently a lecturer at the Faculty of Education at North-West University. Her main research focus is on curriculum studies, self-directed learning and teachers' professional development. She recently completed her PhD, which focused on enhancing teachers' curriculum as praxis from a self-directed learning capability approach. She has presented papers and published at the national and international levels, and she also acts as a co-supervisor for postgraduate students. She is participating in research projects and contributing to community service.



**Anita Lubbe** has been working in the field of teacher education since 2011 as a Life Sciences lecturer at the Faculty of Education at the NWU, and her research niche encompasses assessment, assessment literacy, cooperative learning and self-directed learning. She is the subarea leader for the Assessment to support the SDL subarea of the Research Unit Self-Directed Learning at North-West University. Her PhD, entitled 'Cooperative learning-oriented assessment: Implications for students' assessment literacy and self-directedness in learning', is an amalgamation of her research interests in cooperative learning, assessment and self-directed learning. She has published at the national level, presented papers at the international level, and acts as supervisor for postgraduate students. She also co-edited a recent AOSIS publication in the NWU SDL Series (Learning through assessment: An approach towards self-directed learning). A pragmatist by heart, she is relentless in her quest to bring about assessment change within the Higher Education context. She is currently also part of research projects with a specific focus on assessment practices that enhance students' self-directed learning, as well as the affordances of self-directed multimodal assessment.

## 2022

### Medal of Honour: Prof Micheal van Wyk



**Micheal van Wyk** is a Full Professor in Economics Education, NRF-rated flipped instructional designer, and Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, School for Teacher Education, College of Education, University of South Africa (UNISA). He is a qualified professional teacher, teaching both in primary and secondary schools. He had more than 18 years of teaching, research, and supervision experience at Higher Education Institutions. He published 89 articles in Web of Science, SCOPUS, DOAJ, DHET, and IBSS journals, supervised doctoral and master's degree students, read conference papers, published conference proceedings, and published edited academic books and chapters in academic books. He is a flipped instructional designer researcher in ODeL research. He was awarded for his educational contributions to Economics Education in teacher education, the Chancellor Award for Excellence in Research





(2013), University of South Africa. In 2018, he was awarded the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) for his groundbreaking research on the e-Portfolio as an alternative assessment approach in teacher education at both the College of Education and the University of South Africa. One of his recent articles entitled, Students' Perceptions of the Flipped Classroom Pedagogy in an Open Distance e-Learning University (2020), was published in *Ubiquitous Learning: An International Journal (SCOPUS)* and voted as the best scholarly publication by the journal vetting panel and was consequently awarded the International Award for Excellence for Research (2020), Common Ground Research Network, University of Chicago, USA. In 2023, he was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research, University of South Africa. Currently, serving on international journal editorial boards and vetting panels. He is the Associate Editor for *Heliyon: Education*, a Scopus - Open Access journal (Elsevier). His research interests are digital pedagogies, artificial intelligence, social media tools for the classroom, flipped pedagogy, ePortfolios, and Economics Education.



#### Research medal winner: Prof Pierre du Plessis

**Pierre du Plessis** is a professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Management at UJ with a special interest in Education Leadership, Financial Management, and Education Law. Before joining the University of Johannesburg in 2002, he was a teacher for 22 years, of which 8 years as principal. He also serves as IDSO (inspector of Education) for 3 years. His research focuses on leadership and Educational Law issues, and he serves on the Executive Board of EDUTEL. He was instrumental in establishing the Education African Roundtable where academics from all over Africa share their research. Recently his focus was also on the field of education and the challenges of rural schools.

Additional foci include the expansion of school leadership and coaching school leaders with a focus on teaching and learning. He has written books on teaching and learning, marketing in schools as well as financial management in schools. He has published many papers in his field of interest. He is also rated by the NRF.



#### Postgraduate medal: PhD – Dr Mpho-Entle Modise

**Mpho-Entle Modise (PhD)** is a lecturer in the Department of Curriculum and Instructional Studies, College of Education at the University of South Africa. Mpho-Entle's research areas include faculty and student support in distance education, e-learning, open distance e-learning (ODEL), academic professional development, educational technology integration and adoption, and the use of e-portfolios in teaching and learning. She also has an interest in MOOCs and OERs.

Mpho-Entle is also a member of the South Africa Education Research Association (SAERA) executive committee, where she represents the needs and interests of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) in South Africa and other African countries.

She is the winner of the 2023 UNISA Women in Research Emerging Researcher Award for Excellence in Research. She also received prestigious Doctoral Awards for outstanding thesis from SAERA and EASA.



### Postgraduate medal: Masters – Mr Derek Ballantyne

**Derek Ballantyne** is a seasoned education professional based in Cambridge, United Kingdom at present. With a Master's degree in Education, he has established a successful career in Educational Publishing, and he is currently employed by Cambridge University Press' International Education Department.

Derek's expertise encompasses more than 15 years, during which he has held a variety of positions at Wiley, Oxford University Press, and Cambridge University Press. His contributions to marketing and innovation at work have been recognised, and he has received accolades and awards for his innovative research in Education Technology.

Derek has actively participated in professional development opportunities and collaborated with educators to enhance teaching practices throughout his career. He has also shared his insights on intelligent tutoring systems and the psychology of education at national conferences. In addition, he has published his master's thesis in a prestigious educational journal and is currently pursuing a doctorate in the School of Education at the University of Cape Town, further enhancing his reputation as a thought leader in the fields of education technology and the psychology of education. Derek's dedication to educational progress and his passion for empowering students continue to shape his influential career in education.



### Emerging researcher award: Dr Eugene Machimana

**Dr Eugene Machimana** holds the following qualifications: HDE, BA, BA (Hons), MA in Social Behaviour Studies in HIV/AIDS and PhD (Learning Support, Guidance and Counselling: University of Pretoria). Currently, he is the Head: Curriculum Community Engagement at the University of Pretoria (UP), Department for Education Innovation.

Previously he worked as Student Advisor with Rural Education Access Programme (REAP) in 2004 to 2006. From 2007 to 2009 he worked at Equal Opportunity Foundation (EOF) in Cape Town. He joined the University of Pretoria's (UP) Faculty of Veterinary Science in 2010 as their Community Engagement Coordinator. In 2017, he was appointed as a Senior Lecturer and Faculty Community Engagement Chairperson. In 2018 he joined the Department for Education Innovation, Unit for Community Engagement, as a Senior Education Consultant: Community Engagement. In 2022 he joined the University of South Africa where he held an academic position in the Department for Educational Foundations, thereafter, rejoined the UP.

His research interests focus on community engagement, global citizenship, cognitive and social justice and HIV/AIDS. He has published several articles in national and international journals, including chapters in books. He serves as an external examiner for both master's and PhD theses for several universities and acted as a reviewer for both national and international accredited journals such as *Citizenship Teaching & Learning Journal* and *Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Journal*. In 2015, he had an opportunity to visit the University of Alberta, in Canada, to further his research in global citizenship. During his stay in Alberta, he presented community engagement papers to both students and staff

members of the university. He also attended the Centre for Global Citizenship Education & Research (CGCER) International Conference. He has also presented and chaired sessions at international conferences such as the World Education Research Association (WERA) and the International University Social Responsibility (USR) Summit.

Some achievements

- 2022 – He was awarded Education Association of South Africa (EASA): Emerging Researcher Award.
- 2018 - He was awarded the Education Association of South Africa (EASA) postgraduate medal.
- 2017 - He received the Best PhD Abstract Award (Completed research at UP).
- 2003 - Recognition of Outstanding Scholastic Achievement and Excellence (Golden Key International Honour Society)

**The outgoing chairpersons were also recognised for their contributions:**

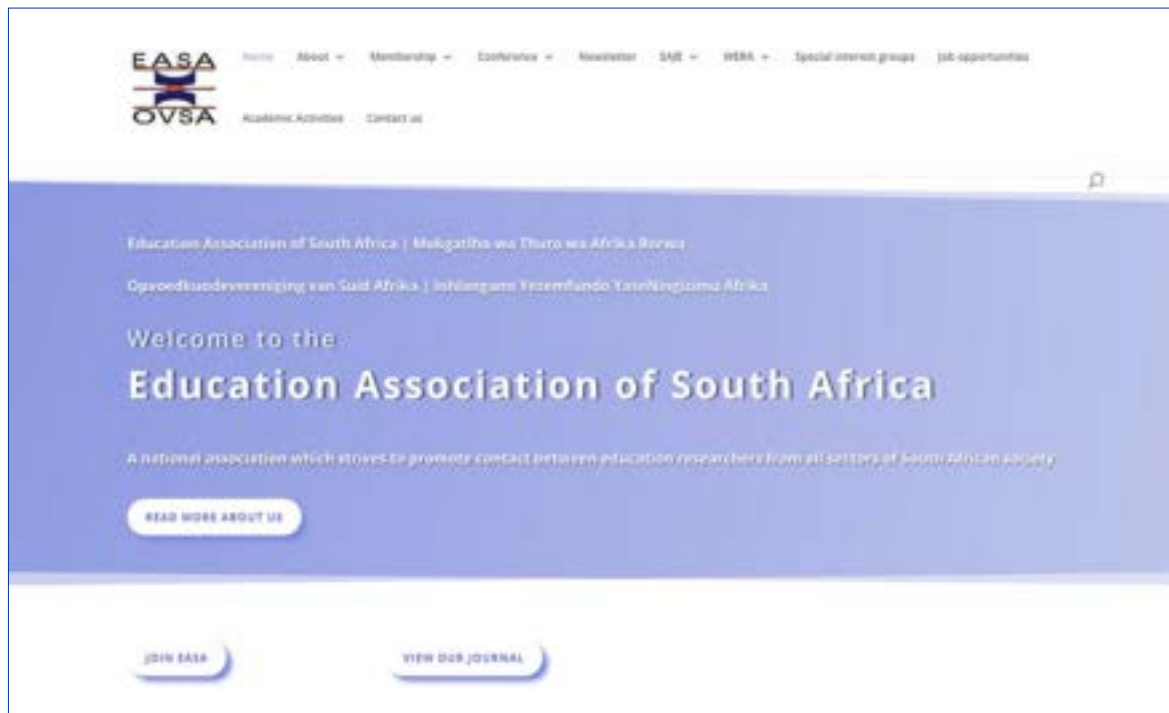


**2021 Outgoing Chairperson Award: Tony Mpsi**



**2022 Outgoing Chairperson Award: Funke Omidire**





## WEBSITE COORDINATOR

The EASA website has been a priority for the past few years, currently under the leadership of Prof Elize du Plessis. Information on the web page includes inter alia the following: About EASA (committee, constitution, etc.); Membership; Conferences; Newsletters; SAJE; WERA; Academic Activities, Special interest groups and Job opportunities. Regular updates take place. Members are encouraged to visit the web page and they can also pay membership fees according to the information on the web page. We furthermore invite all members to send ideas and information that may add value to the website as this provides a platform for EASA to showcase the work done by its members and the contributions made to Education research in South Africa.

Please visit our website at <https://www.easa.ac.za/>

**Prof Elize du Plessis, Chairperson and Website Coordinator**





## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear EASA members and interested colleagues

It has been a busy first few months after our successful January EASA Conference in Cape Town.

The email distribution list of members and interested colleagues has been updated to reflect all participants of the January Conference.

We are proud to welcome the following new and returning members who paid their membership fees subsequent to the Conference:

- Ms Juanita Losch Student UNISA
- Mr Sabelo Nxumalo UP
- Dr Loshni Govender UMP
- Dr Doniwen Pietersen SPU
- V Maseko Student UJ
- Dr Daphney Mawila UJ
- Prof Dinah Magano UNISA
- Ms Adrienne van As TOGI
- Dr Kendall Petersen WITS
- Dr Nadira Maharaj UKZN
- Dr Felix Omal UJ
- Dr Farai Nyika MANCOSA
- Mrs Meshel Muzuva MANCOSA
- Dr Millicent Ngema UNISA
- Dr Amy Padayachee Student UFS
- Dr Dean Langeveldt SPU

- The Call for 2023 Awards for Master's and Doctoral Studies, Emerging Researcher, Research Medal and Medal of Honour will be done towards the middle of August. Please start to think about possible candidates to be nominated.
- Membership fees are payable by all colleagues who have not attended the January 2023 Conference. R450 for full members and R100 for students. The account details are available under Membership on the website. Please complete the online form and submit proof of payment to me.

Please do not hesitate to contact me about any membership or administrative enquiries. And please check out the EASA Website on [www.easa.ac.za](http://www.easa.ac.za)

Kind EASA regards!

**Johnnie Hay**



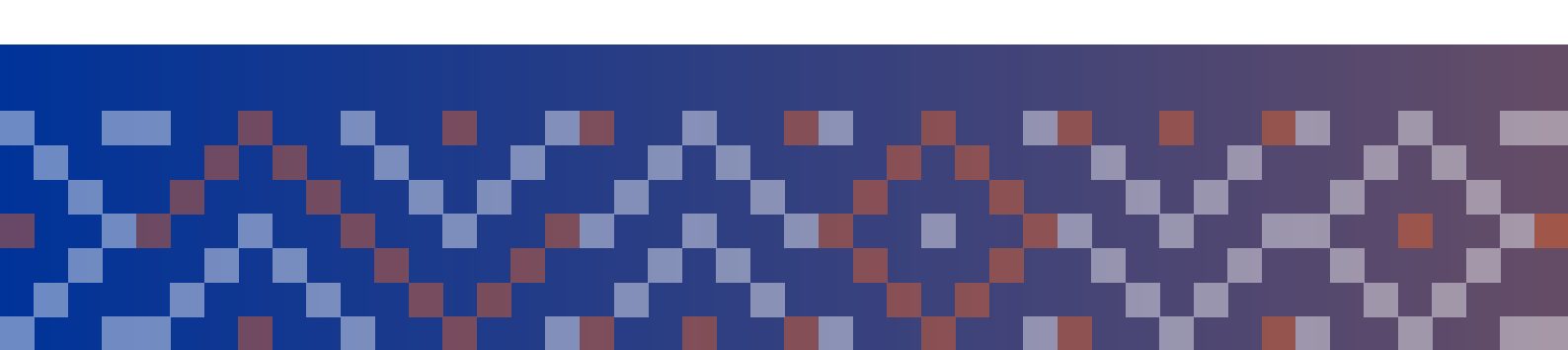
## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

### NETWORKS OF EXPERTISE

Our special interest groups (SIGs) are set out to create a forum for our members, who are active practitioners and experts in their core areas, whether subject-specific or interdisciplinary in nature.

The goal of special interest groups is to transform practice through professional learning opportunities that feature leading practice and are evidence-led; a further goal is, where appropriate, to create research and/or research opportunities around problems of practice.

SIGs maintain a cardinal presence throughout the year via our website and social media and are key stakeholders in organising professional learning opportunities in collaboration with the EASA EXCO, whether at our annual



conference or at stand-alone special interest webinars, seminars, workshops, offered on a schedule agreed to by the special interest group. SIGs also use their collegially minded advantage of encouraging postgraduate students and supervisors to come together in search of new knowledge, relevant research, and contributions to society. EASA currently has six (6) SIGs, and are as follows:

- Curriculum Studies, Philosophy and Sociology of Education and Research Methodology.
- Education Management, leadership, Law, Policy Studies, Comparative and International Education
- Human Development in Education: Educational Psychology, Early Childhood Education, Movement Education and Inclusive Education
- Science, Mathematics and Technology Education
- Self-directed Learning
- Social Sciences in Education: languages, History, EMS and Creative/ Performing Arts

If you want to know more about the SIGs, you can access information from the EASA Website on [www.easa.ac.za](http://www.easa.ac.za)

SIG leaders (chairpersons) are elected at the EASA annual conference. Due to COVID-related restrictions on the activities of the SIGs, the current interim chairpersons have agreed to serve after the annual conference which was held in Cape Town in January 2023.

Therefore, we invite you to attend the 2024 conference so that you can be able to elect the chairpersons for your respective SIGs. Members of the SIGs who are passionate about enhancing education in Southern Africa and beyond and are willing to commit to advancing the work of the SIG are eligible for nomination and election.

For more information and clarification, please contact Dr Fumane Portia Khanare at [fumanek@uj.ac.za](mailto:fumanek@uj.ac.za).

SIGs Coordinator

**Dr Fumane P Khanare**



## NEWS FROM WERA

### Background information

World Education Research Association (WERA) is an association of major national, regional, and international specialty research associations dedicated to advancing education research as a scientific and scholarly field and EASA is a WERA member. Prof Ruth Mampane is a WERA Council member (representing EASA interests). In Southern Africa, and currently, as it stands, in Africa, only one education association (EASA) has council representation in WERA. Education Associations are encouraged to join WERA so that their interests can be represented both nationally and globally. WERA is an association of 28 national, regional, and international specialty research associations which aims to advance education research as a scientific and scholarly field world-wide to serve the public good. If you want to know more about WERA you can access information from their website <http://www.weraonline.org/>.



### WERA Officers:

Bee Leng Chua, President:

[beeleng.chua@nie.edu.sg](mailto:beeleng.chua@nie.edu.sg)

Liesel Ebersöhn, President Elect:

[liesel.ebersohn@up.ac.za](mailto:liesel.ebersohn@up.ac.za)

Rocio Garcia-Carrion, Secretary General:

[rocio.garcia@deusto.es](mailto:rocio.garcia@deusto.es)

Mustafa Yunus Eryaman, Immediate Past President:

[yunuseryaman@gmail.com](mailto:yunuseryaman@gmail.com)

Felice Levine, Appointed Liaison and Past President:

[flevine@aera.net](mailto:flevine@aera.net)

Ingrid Gogolin, Appointed Liaison and Past President:

[gogolin@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:gogolin@uni-hamburg.de)

Geovana Mendonça Lunardi Mendes, Vice-President:

[geolunardi@gmail.com](mailto:geolunardi@gmail.com) or [geovana.mendes@udesc.br](mailto:geovana.mendes@udesc.br)

### Current WERA Calls:

There is currently a call for Submissions for the World Education Research Association (WERA) Focal Meeting to be held at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technology University (NTU), Singapore from 22-24 November 2023. As has become customary, the WERA Focal Meeting forms an integral part of the conference of a member association. The WERA 2023 Focal Meeting is co-hosted with the Educational Research Association of Singapore (ERAS) and consists of a programme of paper, poster, roundtable, and symposium sessions on topics of worldwide emphasis and significance.

The call is posted on the EASA website and was also distributed through the email lists and currently through this newsletter. The online submission system for abstracts can be found on the WERA-ERAS conference website at "Call for Abstracts".

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.weraonline.org/resource/resmgr/focalmeeting\\_/singapore2023/updated\\_call\\_for\\_submissions.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.weraonline.org/resource/resmgr/focalmeeting_/singapore2023/updated_call_for_submissions.pdf)

**Submissions for the Call must be completed by: 28 July 2023; 23:59 Singapore (GMT+8) [Notifications by 1 September 2023]**

There is also a call on EASA website on the Submissions for WERA Invitational Symposia: 1 August 2023 - 1 September 2023. Please read the call and should you be interested, contact Prof Hay, EASA Secretary and EXCO will advise on the way forward. Please note that there will be no financial support

from EASA. Below is more information on the call for the symposia.

### WERA Focal Meeting Invitational Symposia:

"As has become customary, we are inviting each WERA Association member to organise an Invitational Symposium (with your Association member as the explicit co-sponsor) at the WERA 2023 Focal Meeting. We think it is important for every WERA Association member to participate visibly in the WERA Focal Meeting and be seen as an integral part thereof. Given feedback following the previous WERA Focal Meetings, we would again like to foreground the vibrancy of research, including and especially international research, within each country or region that constitutes WERA. We have seen how it adds to the importance of worldwide meetings to show the depth of education research and the important role of WERA in stimulating research and creating linkages around the globe".

### Substance of the WERA Invitational Symposia:

EASA has to take the lead in organising a research symposium of high quality and merit with whom-ever they wish to work with in the Association. These symposia are an opportunity to feature key research in our country or region. A symposium provides opportunities, not afforded by a single paper, to examine a specific education research problem or topic through an international, comparative, or worldwide lens and to bring to bear diverse perspectives, intensive discussion, or a wide range of expertise.

### Format of WERA Invitational Symposia:

The format must follow the same guidelines and provide the required fields for symposia as depicted in the Call for submissions for the WERA 2023 Focal Meeting (in Singapore, as discussed above).

Invitational Symposium proposals are submitted by an organiser who may or may not be a chair, presenter, or discussant. A WERA symposium includes a chair and discussant and between three and five participants. Participants include all presenters and any discussants. The symposium can include presenters from other countries or regions – although this is not obligatory.

Please do not invite each other (across Associations) to participate in these symposia.

### Submission of WERA Invitational Symposia:

Invitational Symposia will not go through the process of review that open submissions do in response to the WERA 2023 Focal Meeting Call. As the quality assurance is already screened by the relevant WERA Association member submitting the session.

- Invitational Symposia must be submitted ONLY between 1 August 2023 and 1 September 2023.
- <https://2023eraswera.dryfta.com/abstracts>
- Please do not submit any WERA Invitational Symposia through the open Call submission platform currently available.
- Association members will be provided with the appropriate link for submission of Invitational Symposia in due course.
- The submission platform for Invitational Symposia will be accessible from 1 August 2023.
- No submissions will be accepted after the deadline of 1 September 2023.

### Information on WERA focal meeting

The first 2023 WERA Council Meeting took place on the 17 April during the American Education Research Association (AERA) focal meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The second World Education Research Association (WERA) 2023 Focal Meeting will be held

during the conference in Singapore which is taking place from 22-24 November 2023 at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore in collaboration with the Educational Research Association of Singapore (ERAS).

### WERA participation with EASA

For future planning of conferences, member Associations, including EASA are advised to use the opportunity to request WERA Keynotes and Symposia during their annual conferences, this opportunity is open and available to all member associations. Associations can send an email (WERA@aera.net) or visit the WERA website (<http://www.weraonline.org/>).

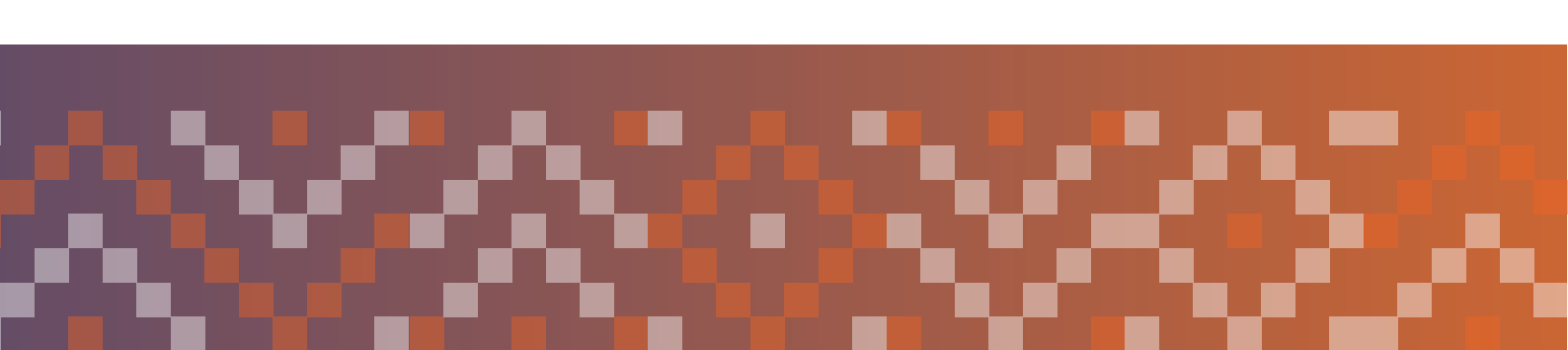
WERA website is continuously revamped to ensure maximum exposure. Individual members and member associations are requested to contact the secretariat (WERA@aera.net) with any questions or suggestions regarding WERA. Similarly, EASA members can utilise the opportunity WERA present of international exposure by sending information regarding important events related to EASA. Importantly, members of EASA are encouraging to send information to WERA secretariat (Dr / Prof.: Rocio Garcia-Carrion; WERA@aera.net) or to EASA-WERA representative: [ruth.mampane@up.ac.za](mailto:ruth.mampane@up.ac.za).

**Prof Motlalepule Mampane**  
WERA Representative



## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

The year 2023 has paved the way for positivity and adaptability for change. Post-Covid, we can with a grateful sigh express that we have learnt to persevere by being resilient every day. The EASA team with their infectious enthusiasm, relatability, and unmistakable expertise bear on the challenges that humanise us all. Our role within the education sphere continued to strive and we were able to collaborate and share informed practices for professional development, research, learning, and authentic wellness. The phenomenal success of the 2023 EASA conference held in Cape Town at the Century City Hotel showcased scholars from diverse backgrounds and age demographics. Their work and research were celebrated ensuring that everyone not only had a seat at the table but a voice, a purpose, and their contribution to research and learning is valued.



In the words of Nelson Mandela “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to save the world”. Based in Ontario, Toronto for close to six months now, I am excited to work with colleagues from the board of education who share the values and principles of being Adaptable, Building relationships, Innovation, Communication, Accountability and Engagement. These foundational elements align with EASA and describe our values as an organisation.

**Dr Sameera Ayob-Essop**

**International Collaboration and Postgraduate involvement**

**Email: [saessop@gmail.com](mailto:saessop@gmail.com)**



## EASA 2024 CONFERENCE NEWS

The EASA 2024 Conference hosted by UJ will be held at Mount Grace Hotel & Spa, Magaliesburg outside of Johannesburg, South Africa from the 14th – 17th of January 2024. The theme of the EASA conference for 2024 is **THE CRADLE, EVOLUTION AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION**, and the topics for the different tracks are: Neurodiversity and Social Justice in Education, ICTs and the 4IR Educational Landscape, The SDGs for Education, Trauma and School Violence/School Safety, Lifelong Learning and Resilience in Education, Community Partnerships through Engaged Scholarship, Future-fit Leadership in Education, Ethical Considerations in the Landscape of Education and the future of education worldwide and beyond the pandemic. Abstract submissions are now open, and can be submitted by using our online platform. The Call for Papers will soon be distributed via email and on the EASA website - where all the details are outlined.

All delegates are also advised to keep an eye on the EASA website for any announcements related to the conference. We look forward to hosting the delegates in Magaliesburg, close to Johannesburg next year.

**Prof Maximus Sefotho, 2024 Conference Coordinator**

### Final Note: Building, growing and sustaining

As we prepare for the EASA 2024 Conference, I want to take a moment to let our members, and the larger community know how grateful we are to be serving as the Executive for the Education Association of South Africa this year. To our new and returning EXCO members, thank you for all the time, talent, and hard work you dedicate to EASA.



To our Chairperson, thank you for your leadership and for bringing an era of growth and new opportunities to the association.

To our members, we hope that you enjoy a year of health, happiness, and personal and professional growth. We look forward to seeing the association membership and imprint on the community expand this year.

Thank you,

**Fumane Khanare, Incoming Chairperson**