

**EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH  
AFRICA (EASA)**



**OPVOEDKUNDE-VERENIGING VAN  
SUID-AFRIKA (OVSA)**

**MOKGAHLO WA THUTO WA AFRIKA**

**BORWA INHLANGANO YEZEMFUNDO  
ENIGIZIMU AFRIKA**

**EASA NEWSLETTER**

**#1**

**2025**

## EASA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025



Prof Candice Livingston  
Chairperson



Prof Fumane Khanare  
Outgoing chairperson



Dr Eugene Machimana Incoming  
chairperson and Newsletter Editor



Prof Johnnie Hay  
Secretary



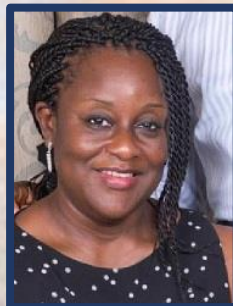
Prof Ruth Mampane  
WERA representative



Prof Raj Mestry  
Treasurer



Prof Ronel Ferreira SAJE  
Executive Editor



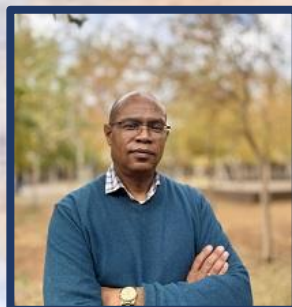
Prof Funke Omidire 2025  
Conference Convener



Prof Maximus Sefotho  
Postgraduate Development and  
Internationalisation



Prof Elize du Plessis  
Website Coordinator



Dr Tony Mpisi  
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)  
Coordinator



Prof Micheal M. van Wyk  
Additional member



## EASA OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON



**Prof Fumane Portia Khanare**  
**EASA Outgoing Chairperson**

What a great honour it has been to serve as Chairperson of EASA in 2024! It is hard to believe that almost six months have passed since our annual at Sun City. I am deeply grateful to the University of Pretoria (UP) for hosting the 2025 EASA Conference. Special recognition goes to Prof. Funke Omidire, the conference chairperson and EASA Executive Committee member and her team for their tireless dedication in organising the conference. Special thanks also go to the conference administrators Mrs Narina Basson and Mrs Marian Louw from Event Behella for their valuable support. Their combined efforts created an outstanding platform for knowledge exchange under the theme “*Learning on the rising tides: Inspirational approaches to education, creativity, harmonious collaboration and deeper social connections*”. The conference enabled diverse scholarly presentations, engaging discussions, shared learning and the forging of meaningful connections among delegates. The EASA awards were presented during a special ceremony, recognising excellence and dedication within our academic community.

As we reflect on the thirty (30) years of democracy in South Africa, EASA has made significant strides in advancing education nationwide through research aligned with both national and continental development objectives. Our Association’s activities, including the annual conference, Special Interest Groups webinars and the South African Journal of Education (SAJE), our internationally accredited journal, provide a robust platform for scholars in Education. These activities are aligned with Agenda 2063’s aspiration for transformed education system across Africa. EASA is proudly affiliated with the World Education Research Association (WERA), which provides our members with valuable access to extensive Doctoral and Early Career (DEC) networks across the globe. In July 2024, I had the honour of serving as a WERA keynote speaker at the Congreso Internacio. In July 2024, I had the honour of serving as a WERA keynote speaker at the *Congreso Internacional Multidisciplinar de Investigacion Educativa* (Multidisciplinary International Conference on Educational Research (CIMIE) Congress held in Spain, an opportunity that highlights the global relevance and impact of our work.

The Association’s continued success is a testament to the collaborative spirit of our member members and partners. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Executive Committee for their dedication and strategic leadership across various portfolios, as reported in this newsletter. We warmly welcome Dr Eugene Machimana as our incoming Chairperson and Newsletter coordinator. Dr Tony Mpisi now leads our Special Interest Group (SIGs), bringing fresh energy to revitalise these vital scholarly forums. Prof Maximus Sefotho continues on the



important portfolio of Postgraduate Development and Internationalisation, while Prof Elize du Plessis resumes her role as coordinator of the EASA website – a position she has successfully held in the past. We also acknowledge the valuable contribution of Prof Micheal van Wyk's contribution as an additional member of the EASA Executive Committee and is working closely with Dr Mpisi to strengthen and expand the work of our SIGs.

Our international standing is strengthening through our membership in the World Education Research Association (WERA), with Prof Ruth Mampame representing EASA on the WERA Council. We warmly welcome Dr Marisa Leask as our WERA-DEC Representative. Prof Johnnie Hay, our dedicated secretary, we remain grateful for your insight and leadership in the association. We are equally proud of Prof Ronel Ferreira and her team for maintaining the South African Journal of Education (SAJE) as a leading internationally accredited journal in education research in Africa. Moreover, Prof Raj Mestry continues his exceptional stewardship of the association's finances as Treasurer. I am very delighted to welcome Prof Candice Livingston as EASA's Chairperson for 2025 and wish her every success in this important role. I look forward to staying connected and hope to see many of you at our next annual conference in 2026.

## EASA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM), chaired by Prof Fumane Khanare at Sun City, opened with a welcome and the introduction of the 2025 EXCO, including new member Prof Micheal van Wyk. The previous AGM minutes were approved without amendment.

- **EASA Newsletter:** Prof Candice Livingston encouraged submissions following successful issues in June and November 2024.
- **South African Journal of Education (SAJE):** Presented by Prof Fumane Khanare in Prof Ronel Ferreira's absence. Highlights included a total of 240 submissions in 2024 with increasing international reach and two special issues planned for 2025.
- **Financial:** Prof Raj Mestry presented a sound unaudited financial position with a closing bank balance of R277,577.84 and investments totalling over R877,000.
- **Website:** Dr Eugene Machimana encouraged greater member engagement via the EASA website.
- **Special Interest Groups (SIGs):** Dr Tony Mpisi announced growth to 12 SIGs with a live Google document for member sign-up.
- **World Education Research Association (WERA):** Prof Ruth Mampame reported on international engagements and EASA's strengthened position within WERA.
- **Postgraduate development and internationalisation:** Portfolio now led by Prof Maximus Monaheng Sefotho following Dr Sameera Essop's resignation.
- Dr Eugene Machimana was confirmed as the Incoming Chairperson for 2025.
- The chairpersonship was officially handed over to Prof Candice Livingston, who reaffirmed the commitment to inclusivity.
- The 2026 EASA Conference will be hosted by the Faculty of Education of the University of the Western Cape.



# **EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA CONFERENCE 2025**



**Learning on the Rising Tides:  
Inspirational Approaches to Education, Creativity,  
Harmonious Collaboration and Deeper Social Connections  
Sun City, North West province, South Africa  
19-22 January 2025**





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR LOCAL CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE



**Prof Funke Omidire**  
**Chair: EASA Local organising committee 2025**

The Education Association of South Africa (EASA) 2025 Conference held at the exquisite Sun City Resort, 19 to 21 January, was a wonderful way to start the 2025 academic year! The quality of the papers and the high level of intellectual engagement and social connections were inspiring. The theme of the EASA 2025 conference was *Learning on the rising tides: Inspirational approaches to education, creativity, harmonious collaboration and deeper social connections*. The sub-themes include Community engagement (CE) and Teacher learning through collaboration, Community-based participatory research, Socially responsive community engagement, Parental involvement, Transdisciplinarity, Teacher education and higher education, Innovative pedagogy, Language, Resilience and Early Childhood Education, Multilingualism and linguistic diversity, Language planning and policy, Technology in education with a focus on the Artificial Intelligence (AI), Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and Online, hybrid and blended learning.

The conference was also attended by international delegates from Australia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, United Kingdom and the United States. The conference started with an evening cocktail function at the Valley of Waves. This event provided the opportunity for informal pre-conference socialisation and networking among the delegates.

We were honoured by our keynote speakers and their addresses through which they shared their wealth of knowledge and expertise. The titles of their presentations are as follows:



**Prof Chika Sehoole**  
**Former Dean of the Faculty of Education**



**Prof Sunil Maharaj**  
Vice Principal: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate  
education  
University of Pretoria  
**Deepening social connections for improved teaching  
and learning, research and social impact**



**Dr Naledi Pandor**  
Honorary professor in education  
University of Pretoria  
**Collaborations and partnerships for socioeconomic  
development**



**Prof Liesel Ebersöhn**  
Full Professor: Department of Educational Psychology  
Director: Centre for the Study of Resilience  
University of Pretoria  
**Inequality and collective well-being: Afrocentric  
resilience lessons for education**



Ms Julia Read  
General Manager: Van Schaik  
**Educational Technologies: Cutten and future impact  
on teaching and learning from a South African  
Publishing perspective**



**Prof Crain Soudein**  
Former Deputy Vice Chancellor  
University of Cape Town  
Head: Human Science Research Council (HSRC)  
Centre for African Studies  
**Optimising learning opportunities on the rising tides.  
How much time do I have?**



**Prof Loretta Feris**  
Vice-Principal: Academic  
University of Pretoria  
**Vote of thanks and closing address**

In addition, there were workshops, symposia and paper presentations that were well received. A book of abstracts detailing the abstracts of the presentations at the conference is available



on the EASA website. The sessions organised by the doctoral and early career scholars were particularly popular and well received. The sessions were organised by Dr Natasha Ziebell, WERA DEC Network Chair and Senior Lecturer at The University of Melbourne, Australia and Dr Marisa C. Leask, EASA DEC Chair and Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for the Study of Resilience, University of Pretoria. There was also a dedicated slot on the programme for parallel sessions of the EASA Special Interest Groups (SIG). Information regarding the SIG and how to join a group or participate in the activities is available on the EASA website. Another highlight of the conference was the Gala Dinner with delegates beautifully dressed to celebrate the successful conference and to honour the recipients of the EASA awards.

The following honours were awarded during the conference:

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Medal of Honour                 | : Prof Elsa Mentz and Prof Saloshna Vandeyar |
| Emerging Researcher Award       | : Dr Roxanne Bailey                          |
| Postgraduate Medal              | : PhD - Dr Lizelle Pretorius                 |
| 2025 Outgoing Chairperson Award | : Prof Fumane Khanare                        |

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee of the University of Pretoria, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the delegates of the EASA 2025 Conference. I would like to use this opportunity to also thank our keynote speakers, Prof Maharaj, Prof Naledi Pandor, Prof Liesel Ebersöhn, Prof Crain Soudein and Ms Julia Read, for honouring our call and sharing their knowledge and expertise with us. Thank you also to our very professional and skilled Programme Director, Mr Silas Pillay whose sense of humour delighted the delegates.

Let me also use this opportunity to thank all our sponsors, Van Schaik Publishers, DP World and Motus Community Trust, for their support towards the success of the conference. I also want to thank Prof Sunil Maharaj, Prof Loretta Feris, Prof Chika Sehoole and Prof Lindelani Mnguni of the University of Pretoria for their sponsorship, guidance and support during the planning of the conference. A special thank you to Mr Joos Louw and Events Behella, Mrs Narina Basson and Mrs Marian Louw, for their hard work organising the conference, preparing the programme and coordinating the activities. We truly appreciate their efforts. I would also like to thank Prof Fumane Khanare, Outgoing Chair of the EASA Executive Committee and the entire EXCO, for their unwavering support and advice. Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Local Organising Committee, Prof Clinton van der Merwe, Dr Eugene Machimana, Prof Ruth Mampane, Dr Joyce West, Dr Nontuthuzelo Mhlanga, Dr Ruth Aluko, Dr David Sekao and Prof Ronel Ferreira, for their dedication and hard work reviewing abstracts, attending meetings and making decisions. Their contributions were instrumental to the success of the conference.





## EASA AWARDS 2025



**Medal of Honour  
Prof Saloshna Vandeyar**



**Prof Liesel Ebersöhn  
and Prof Fumane Khanare**

**Medal of Honour  
Prof Elsa Mentz**



**Prof Josef De Beer, Prof  
Elsa Mentz and Prof  
Fumane Khanare**

**Emerging researcher  
award  
Dr Roxanne Bailey**



**Prof Fumane Khanare, Prof  
Candice Livingston and Dr  
Roxanne Bailey**



**Postgraduate Medal: PhD  
Dr Lizelle Pretorius**



**Prof Candice Livingston, Dr  
Lizelle Pretorius and Prof  
Michael van Wyk**

**Outgoing Chairperson  
Award  
Prof Fumane Khanare**



**Prof Candice Livingston  
(Chair 2025) with Prof  
Fumane Khanare (Chair  
2024)**





## EASA WEBSITE



**Prof Elize du Plessis**

Dr Machimana has done an excellent job managing the EASA website and introducing fresh ideas and improvements during the past year. During his tenure, he submitted materials on the EASA website under the Postgraduate Development and Internationalisation section. Moreover, he ensured that the website remained current by revising information related to the EASA committee members, special interest groups, academic activities, job opportunities and various other aspects of the association.

As part of the leadership transition, Dr Machimana will be the EASA incoming Chairperson and I will resume responsibility for the website. I encourage all members to share any relevant information they would like posted on the website to ensure it remains a valuable resource for the community.

Please send me updates, announcements or any other materials for publication.





## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



**Dr Tony Mpisi**

Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) aim to provide a forum for members who are experts and active practitioners in their core areas, whether subject-specific or interdisciplinary. The primary goal of SIGs is to transform practice through professional learning opportunities that showcase leading, evidence-based practices. Moreover, SIGs aim to create research and research opportunities around practical problems. SIGs maintain a strong presence year-round via our website and social media, playing a key role in organising professional learning events with the EASA EXCO, including our annual conference and special interest webinars, seminars and workshops. The following are the SIGs and the leaders:

- Science, Mathematics and Technology Education (Dr Benedict Kholobe) Sol Plaatje University [SPU])
- Psychology of Education, Inclusive Education, Early Childhood Education (Dr Lucia Munongi – University of Johannesburg [UJ])
- Self-directed Learning (Prof Elsa Mentz - North-West University [NWU])
- Education Management, Leadership, Law, Policy Studies, Comparative and International Education (Dr Zandile Gcelu - University of the Free State)
- Open and Distance Learning (ODL) (Prof Michael van Wyk - University of South Africa [UNISA])
- Curriculum Studies, Philosophy and Sociology of Education and Research Methodology (Prof Michael van Wyk - UNISA)
- Inclusive, Disability and Neurodiversity Education (Prof Maximus Monaheng Sefotho - UJ)
- Doctoral and Early Career Network (DECN) (Prof Cina Mosito - Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University)
- Community Engagement Scholarship (Dr Eugene Machimana - University of Pretoria [UP])
- Work Integrated Learning (WIL) or Teaching Practice (Prof Mpungose Cedric Bheki - UNISA)
- Social Sciences in Education: Languages, History, EMS and Creative/Performing Arts
- Science, Mathematics and Technology Education
- Educational Technology (Dr Nokukhanya Thembane – Mangosuthu University of Technology)



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



**Prof Johnnie Hay**

From the Secretariat side I wish to thank all members for their continued support and payment of their annual membership fees. For those of you who have not paid during the last two years nor attended an EASA conference, please do so by going to the EASA Website, click on Membership, complete the form and pay the R450 for 2025.

I can report that we have a steady stream of colleagues who are joining the association. EASA is the oldest general education association in South Africa with a history of more than 60 years. Welcome to the following members who paid up for 2025 and this does not include all colleagues who attended EASA 2025 at Sun City and who are automatically members by virtue of the registration fees paid:

- |                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Dr Samantha Hoffman    | : Two Oceans Graduate Institute      |
| • Dr Chantelle August    | : Two Oceans Graduate Institute      |
| • Dr Joel Osei-Asiamah   | : University of South Africa (UNISA) |
| • Ms Tersia Kloppers     | : Akademia                           |
| • Ms Mariaan Oschman     | : Akademia                           |
| • Ms Nadia Herbst        | : Akademia                           |
| • Ms Jhani Pottas        | : Akademia                           |
| • Ms Daleen Botha        | : Akademia                           |
| • Prof Doniwen Pietersen | : UNISA                              |
| • Dr Maretha Steyn       | : Akademia                           |

Colleagues, please do not hesitate to contact me on [johnnie@akademia.ac.za](mailto:johnnie@akademia.ac.za) in case of any uncertainties.

Finally, I wish to thank Dr Tony Mpisi who stood in for me at EASA 2025 when I could not attend.



# WORLD EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (WERA)



**Prof Motlalepule Mampane**

World Education Research Association (WERA) is an association of major national, regional and international speciality 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, 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 nationally and globally. WERA is an association of 28 national, regional and international speciality research associations which aims to advance education research as a scientific and scholarly field worldwide 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

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July 2024 – June 2026

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Appointed Liaison

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In 2025, WERA will hold two annual meetings aligned to international conferences, which EASA delegates can attend. The first conference is in Denver Colorado (USA) on 23-27 April 2025, in collaboration with the American Research Association (AERA). The AERA focal meeting will take place from 23 - 27 April and WERA council meeting will follow on the 28 April 2025 (<https://www.aera.net/Events-Meetings/AERA-2025-Annual-Meeting>). WERA in most instances send out a call for abstracts and an invited EASA Symposiums, as an EASA delegate I encourage you to watch the space. Also, EASA shares all WERA announcements with all its delegates.

The second meeting will be in collaboration with the Federal University of Paraiba (UFPB), João Pessoa, Brazil in collaboration with the *National Association of Research and Graduate Studies on Education/Associação Nacional de Pesquisa e Pós-Graduação em Educação (ANPED)*, (<https://anped.org.br/>) from 26-30 October 2025. The call for the submissions for WERA Invitational Symposia was opened on the: 15 March to 1 April 2025.

During the EASA conference in Sun City, North West Province in January 2025, Prof Ebersöhn, WERA President, attended the conference and this was to support EASA and to show WERA's presence in local conferences. Additionally, Dr Marisa Leask the EASA-WERA: Doctoral and Early Career Network (DECN) representative and Dr Natasha Ziebell from The University of Melbourne, Australia Doctoral and Early Career Networking meeting (during the SIG meetings) co-presented a Doctoral Network with many Early Career Academics. Furthermore, during one of the lunch times, a space was reserved in the restaurant for early career scholars and experienced researchers (including EASA exco) availed themselves to socialise with early career academics, the meeting was successful. The purpose of DEC was to provide doctoral and early career scholars the opportunity to network with and meet each other, as well as to build relationships with expert researchers in the field of education.

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 email ([WERA@aera.net](mailto: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](mailto:WERA@aera.net)) with any questions or suggestions regarding WERA. Similarly, EASA members can utilise the opportunity WERA presents for international exposure by sending information regarding important events related to EASA. Importantly, members of EASA are encouraged to send information to the WERA secretariat (Dr / Prof: Rocio Garcia-Carrion; [WERA@aera.net](mailto:WERA@aera.net)) or to (EASA-WERA representative: [ruth.mampane@up.ac.za](mailto:ruth.mampane@up.ac.za)).



## POSTGRADUATE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONALISATION



**Prof Maximus Monaheng Sefotho**

Currently the Centre is the custodian of the Mpedi Neurodiversity studies scholarship, full dissertation Masters and I am the current Chair of the scholarship. This scholarship was launched in 2024 by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Letlhokwa Mpedi and his family at the Centre for Neurodiversity. Both Mr Mohamed Mosala and Ms Nthabiseng Molebatsi graduated from this Masters and have already joined the PhD programme. Mr Mosala is already enjoying an article in press status with several others in development. Mr Mosala was also introduced to an international collaboration with La Universidad Católica de Colombia where he presented two papers at the 15<sup>th</sup> Interuniversity Forum for Life, Interculturality and Inclusion. One of these presentations was published as a chapter: Forum for Life: Ubuntu philosophy in promoting interculturality and inclusion of learners with Down syndrome through transition programmes. (2024). Ms Holly Ryder-Nimb, a Professional doctoral student also presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> Interuniversity Forum for Life, Interculturality and Inclusion on the topic: *Inclusion is at the heart of student reintegration post-hospitalisation for mental health treatment*. The presentation was equally turned into a book chapter for the Forum for Life.

Dr Charity Onyishi, started as a Post-Doctoral Fellow under my supervision in 2021. She later became a Senior Doctoral fellow and won a Vice Chancellor award based on her sterling publication record. Dr Charity has just been appointed in the Centre for Neurodiversity as a Research Associate from May 2025 for a three-year period. Dr Mkpoikanke Sunday Otu joined the Centre also as Post-Doctoral Fellow in 2023. One of his milestones is a co-edited book:

Otu, M. S., and Sefotho, M. M. (2025). Career coaching and employability skills acquisition. IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3693-4014-1>.

Both are from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in Nigeria and they built on the experience gained from the Centre of Neurodiversity@UJ to start a Neurodiversity Research Group (NRG) at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Currently the two colleagues are mobilising the development of Parents of Children with Neurodiversity – Nsukka (PCN – Nsukka) group which will be community based and creating awareness on neurodiversity. This is following my awareness campaign visit to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in Nigeria on the 29<sup>th</sup> April where I delivered a keynote on: Inclusive, Disability and Neurodiversity Education. This



experience dovetails with Postgraduate Development and Internationalisation portfolio as well as the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on Inclusive, Disability and Neurodiversity Education.

### **EASA conference 2024**

- Presented a workshop attended by over 13 participants (signed register) with additional attendees.
- Received positive feedback regarding the session.
- Conducted a networking lunch meeting, though attendance was lower than expected; valuable discussions took place nonetheless.
- Dr Natasha Ziebell's presence as WERA DEC Chair significantly raised awareness of the DEC programme and fostered strong connections.

### **Research network building**

- Created a short database of researchers and sent email reminders regarding WERA webinar events.
- Requested access for the full researcher list but have not received this (potential restriction due to POPIA compliance).

### **Webinars (LinkedIn)**

- Conference Participation: Presenting a poster at a conference (12 November 2024).
- Academic Writing: "Pathways to my first publication" (31 March 2025).

### **Recommendations and next steps**

- Survey approach: Explore alternative methods to gather insights on researcher support needs while adhering to POPIA restrictions.
- Career development workshop: Assist early-career academics in understanding their "why", provide tools for branding and networking.
- Collaborative opportunities: Increase efforts to work across universities, breaking silos to enhance shared knowledge and academic development. (Provided by Dr Marisa Leask).





## EASA ADDITIONAL MEMBER



**Prof Micheal van Wyk**  
**Coordinator: Special Interest Groups, Open Distance Learning**

As the coordinator of one of the Education Association of South Africa (EASA) Special Interest Groups (SIGs), namely the Open Distance Learning SIG, I organised two webinars. The first webinar was held on 24 August 2024 and featured three panellists: Dr Michael Adarkwah (Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany), Prof Brady Lund (University of Texas, USA) and Dr Chahra Beloufa (Arab Open University, Saudi Arabia). The panel discussed the topic *AI and machine learning intensify digital transformation in higher education*. This webinar exceeded expectations, attracting 119 participants. The second webinar, which I presented in my capacity as an additional member of EASA, took place on 3 December 2024. Entitled *Connections between GenAI use and humanisation/dehumanisation*, it was hosted as part of the Humanising Project at Nelson Mandela University. This session was attended by 89 participants.

In 2025, I organised and presented two online workshops titled *Navigating ethical challenges and the role of AI in academic integrity*, held on 29–30 April at the Namibian University of Science and Technology and the University of Mauritius, respectively. These workshops aimed to introduce participants to EASA, not only as a South African academic association but also as a member of the World Education Research Association (WERA). Several attendees expressed interest in the upcoming EASA 2026 Conference, to be held in Cape Town and hosted by the University of the Western Cape. Both workshops were well attended, with a combined total of over 349 participants.

Currently, I am engaged in guest editing the 2025 Special Issue of the Journal of Teaching and Learning, as part of my responsibilities as an additional member of EASA. Since the Call for Papers was launched in November 2024, we have received 39 manuscripts, all of which are currently under review. The submission deadline is 30 June 2025. The Call for Papers is available on the EASA website.



## MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING CHAIRPERSON



**Dr Eugene Machimana**

Thank you for nominating me to serve as the 2026 incoming Chairperson of the Education Association of South Africa (EASA). I am truly grateful for the opportunity to lead and serve. I look forward to working closely with all of you and the EASA members in the journey ahead. It is both an honour and a privilege to accept this role. I deeply appreciate the trust and confidence you have in me. I am committed to serving the association with dedication and purpose. As we move forward, I am eager to collaborate with each of you to strengthen our collective efforts, advance educational research and address the critical challenges facing our field. Together, we can continue to shape and enrich the discourse on education in South Africa and beyond.

