



EDUCATION ASSOCIATION of SOUTH AFRICA

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2027

The EASA 2027 **Call for Papers**

THEME

Learning On The Rising Tides:

*Inspirational Approaches To Education,
Creativity, Harmonious Collaboration, And
Deeper Social Connections*

DATE: 17-20 January 2027

VENUE: Boardwalk Sun International, Gqeberha
Port Elizabeth, South Africa

IMPORTANT DATES:

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| • 1st Call Abstract Submissions: | 16 September 2026 |
| • Abstract Submission Deadline: | 30 October 2026 |
| • Event Registration Deadline: | 16 November 2026 |
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IDEAS
PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

*Rising
together
for education*



Stay tuned... this is one conference you won't want to miss!

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The theme “**LEARNING ON THE RISING TIDES**” reflects the rapidly transforming landscape of education in a world marked by heightened uncertainty, technological acceleration, and shifting social dynamics. Across global learning environments, formal, informal, digital, and community-based, educators and institutions are navigating powerful tides of change that call for renewed creativity, intentional collaboration, and strengthened human connections.

As emerging technologies reshape how knowledge is created and shared, new pedagogical possibilities continue to surface. These rising tides challenge traditional paradigms and open pathways for innovative learning designs, creative expression, and interdisciplinary engagement. At the same time, the social fabric of learning communities is being re-examined, highlighting the need for deeper social connectedness, empathy, and collective resilience within educational ecosystems.

This conference aims to provide a platform for exploring inspirational approaches that harness creativity, promote harmonious collaboration, and cultivate meaningful relationships within and beyond the classroom. It invites contributions that illuminate how individuals, institutions, and communities can respond constructively to ongoing change, rising together toward more inclusive, imaginative, and socially grounded futures in education.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The **2027 EASA Conference** invites scholars, practitioners, researchers, and creative thinkers to contribute to a rich and forward-looking exploration of educational futures under the overarching **THEME: LEARNING ON THE RISING TIDES: *Inspirational Approaches to Education, Creativity, Harmonious Collaboration, and Deeper Social Connections***. As education systems navigate rapid technological shifts, evolving societal expectations, and complex global challenges, this conference seeks insights that illuminate innovative, human-centred, and socially responsive approaches across diverse contexts.

We welcome submissions that engage with the following thematic streams, each offering a unique lens through which to reimagine teaching and learning in an interconnected and transformative era:



THEME 1:

Education At Altitude: Humanising Teaching And Learning In The Age Of Ai

As artificial intelligence (AI) transforms the educational landscape, the need to humanise teaching and learning becomes increasingly urgent. This theme invites critical inquiry into how educators can sustain empathy, ethics, and humanity in learning environments increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence.

Submissions may explore how AI can elevate educational practice while protecting the relational core of teaching. It asks how we might elevate learning experiences without losing sight of the human spirit that anchors education.

- Human-centred pedagogies in AI-enhanced learning environments
- Ethical and responsible integration of AI in education
- AI literacy for teachers, learners, and educational leaders
- Preserving empathy, care, and relational teaching in digital spaces
- Critical reflections on bias, equity, and data justice in AI systems
- Co-designing learning experiences with AI and human creativity
- Self-directed learning and learner agency in AI-supported environments
- Futures-oriented approaches to assessment
- Context-responsive and adaptive education
- Teacher professionalism, well-being, and professional growth

THEME 2:

Digital Futures, Human Stories: Reimagining Transforming Education Across Africa

Amid rapid digital expansion across the continent, Africa's educational future is being shaped by both technological innovation and the human narratives behind it. This theme explores how digital tools, local contexts, and lived experiences intersect to create meaningful, culturally relevant learning pathways.

As digital infrastructures expand across the continent, this theme calls for papers that foreground African experiences, agency, and innovation.



It encourages contributions that highlight African ingenuity, resilience, and reimagined possibilities for equitable, culturally grounded, and aspirational educational futures.

- African digital innovations and locally grounded educational technologies
- Storytelling, indigenous knowledge systems, and digital expression
- Access, equity, and infrastructural challenges in digital education
- Digital transformation that centres African identities, cultures, and languages
- The role of policy and leadership in shaping Africa's digital learning futures
- Youth agency, entrepreneurship, and digital skills for a changing continent
- Educational leadership in an AI-driven Era
- Grassroots, community-driven approaches that reimagine educational futures across Africa
- Enhancing access, mobility, resilience, and innovation in highland and other hard-to-reach environments

THEME 3:

Reimagining Education in a Changing World: Innovation, Inclusion and Impact

In a world marked by continuous change, education must evolve to remain inclusive, impactful, and forward-thinking. This theme examines innovative practices that expand access, promote social justice, and drive transformative outcomes for diverse learners.

It calls for scholarship that redefines what educational excellence can look like in uncertain and dynamic times. Submissions may address emerging models, policies, or pedagogies that respond creatively to global shifts.

- Transformative Pedagogies for Future Learning
- Inclusive, Equitable and Decolonised Education Systems
- Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Production in the Global South
- Management, Leadership, Governance and Accountability in Education
- Education for Sustainable Futures and Social Justice
- Inclusive pedagogies and universal design for learning
- Educational Psychology for Holistic Learner Development
- Transformative educational leadership for a rapidly changing society



- Future-oriented curriculum design and innovative assessment practices
- Education as a catalyst for social justice, sustainability, and community impact
- Resilient teaching models in times of crisis, disruption, or uncertainty
- Collaboration between schools, universities, industry, and communities

THEME 4:

Reimagining Early Childhood Education in a Changing World

Young children are growing up in environments shaped by shifting technologies, family structures, and global challenges. Recognising the foundational importance of early learning, this theme focuses on how early childhood education can adapt to nurture curiosity, resilience, and holistic development in an era of rapid transformation.

It invites reflections on renewed pedagogies, partnerships, and practices that honour children's rights and developmental needs.

- Nurturing Tomorrow: Transforming Early Childhood Education for the 21st Century
- Imagining New Possibilities: Play, Pedagogy, and Technology in Early Childhood
- Human Connections in a Digital Age: Rethinking Early Childhood Education
- Holistic and play-based learning in evolving social and technological contexts
- Strengthening family and community partnerships in early learning
- Innovations in early childhood pedagogy and educator professional development
- Young children's well-being, rights, and identity in a changing world
- Early childhood learning environments that foster curiosity, resilience, and creativity
- Inclusive early learning practices for diverse needs and backgrounds

Theme 5:

Teaching and Learning in a Community of Practice

Communities of practice remain powerful spaces for collective learning, shared knowledge building, and professional growth. This theme explores how educators collaborate, reflect, and co-construct meaning in ways that strengthen teaching and enrich learner experiences. It welcomes insights into supportive networks, collegial partnerships, and collaborative innovation.

We invite contributors to engage boldly with the rising tides of transformation shaping education today and to share work that inspires new ways of thinking, learning, and connecting.

- Collaborative knowledge building and peer-supported professional learning
- Communities of practice as spaces for innovation and reflective teaching
- Interdisciplinary or cross-sector collaboration in education
- Mentorship, coaching, and shared leadership models
- Digital communities of practice and networked professional learning
- Sustaining communities of practice for long-term educational impact
- Teaching practice within communities of practice
- Engaged scholarship and community-embedded academic work
- Subject methodologies

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Oral paper presentations, symposia, workshops, roundtable discussions, and poster presentations are the presentation formats at the **EASA 2027 Conference**.

Proposals for presentation of papers at the **EASA 2027 conference** will be in the form of a **200-to-300-word abstract** with a clear title of the presentation, author/s and institution of the paper, contact details of the submitting presenter.

- An indication of the theme within which the paper should be considered and
- Each delegate may only present a maximum of 2 papers.
- Abstract proposals will be considered continually.
- A detailed programme will be announced once it has been finalised.
- Only abstracts of delegates who paid the conference fee before 30 November 2026 will be included in the programme.

Delegates need to submit proof of payment on or before the due date to ensure their abstract is included in the Book of Abstracts and that they attend and present at the conference.

Abstracts can be submitted by using our online platform, soon to be opened.

- Register as a user on the website
- After registration, submit and manage your abstract from the My Abstracts menu option
- Once an abstract is submitted for approval, you will receive a confirmation e-mail acknowledging your abstract submission
- After you submit an abstract, it will be reviewed, and feedback will be sent to you via e-mail
- To register as a delegate to attend the conference and receive an invoice, go to:

ONLY ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED ON THE WEBSITE WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & PROGRAMME

Will be announced as soon as possible.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

The following conference registration fee structure is applicable:

CATEGORY	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE
Full participation 3-day programme (Includes 3 evening functions)	R 8 580.00
Delegates 3 day only (Excludes evening function)	R 5 980.00
Delegates 1 day only (Excludes evening function)	R 3 225.00
Partner attendance cocktail event 17 January	R 650.00
Partner attendance dinner 18 January	R 980.00
Partner attendance gala dinner 19 January	R 1 135.00



The registration fee includes registration, EASA membership fees, conference material, refreshments and lunch during the day(s) of attendance, organised functions, but excludes all travelling costs, accommodation, and any other refreshments not included on the programme.

THERE WILL BE NO VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS AT THE EASA 2027 CONFERENCE.

No refunds, but you are most welcome to send a substitute at no extra cost.

An official invoice will subsequently be e-mailed to you to confirm your successful registration.

Please e-mail a copy of the deposit slip or proof of electronic transfer to petrie@behella.co.za.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

Please Take Note: All costs (travel, accommodation, and subsistence) related to your participation in the conference must be covered by the participant, regardless of whether the proposal is accepted. EASA 2027 is not liable and holds no responsibility for any of these costs.

Accommodation and Transport

Special rates were negotiated with The Boardwalk Hotel in Gqeberha. There are a limited number of rooms available. The Boardwalk negotiated rates as well as a few alternative options will be part of the online registration process

Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport is the closest airport to the Boardwalk Hotel with regular scheduled commercial flights.

SPONSORSHIPS & EXHIBITORS

Please contact petrie@behella.co.za and modismp@unisa.ac.za for more information regarding sponsorships and exhibition opportunities. .

ENQUIRIES:

General and Registration:

Conference Administrators (EASA 2027)

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DISCLAIMER

The organisers reserve the right to change or cancel the published venue, programme, dates and/or fee due to unforeseen circumstances.

