

Date:

4-6 October, 2018

Venue:

University of the
Free State
Qwaqwa Campus

Call
for
Papers



EDUCATION
OPVOEDKUNDE

UFS·UV

Sustainable Rural Learning Ecologies Colloquium

Theme: RURAL EDUCATION KNOWLEDGE
PRODUCTION AND PEDAGOGY
INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE
LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE
EPISTEMIC SPACE OF DECOLONIALITY

Key Note Speaker
Prof. Sabelo Gatsheni Ndlovu
(UNISA)



Emergent rural epistemologies from the South find themselves in contested terrain in the academic space. In competition with colonially inspired epistemologies from the North as well as reigning epistemologies serving urban areas and city life, they are challenged to set their own knowledge production agendas creatively and engage with them constructively. Aiming at serving and empowering rural communities, they should problematize the South-North and rural-urban epistemological divides creatively, and produce the requisite rural knowledge that serves the objectives of rural sustainable development. They need to negotiate and articulate rural epistemological repositories, social networks, treasured values, moral wisdom and social cohesion imaginatively and resourcefully in the broader universe of knowledge production relevance, equality and epistemic transformation and development. These resources, so typical of rural communities, should be intellectualised, harnessed and mobilised in constructive and enabling epistemological networks that serve rural, communal and upwardly mobile wealth creation, modernisation, and socio-economic advancement. As such, rural, home-grown epistemological production would not only reclaim its own space for knowledge production in the broader, universally contested epistemological arena, but also contribute its own socio-cultural wealth and wisdom constructively to the globalising and digitalising world.

Furthermore, cognisant of the challenge of fostering a constructive and productive epistemic framework for rural learners that attend higher education institutions in the South, decolonial pedagogies should foster positive and affirmative worldviews, human dignity, and knowledge and skills development for rural self-advancement. This should be done in the context of the history of the decolonial experience of the resistance to slavery, and the confrontation of, and struggles against imperialism and colonization, and the achievements of independence and self-rule, as the dominant trajectory in the story of the modern world (Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2013:11-12). A centrally significant constituent focus in this narrative, is the struggle against the de-humanisation, binarism and hierarchisation of colonising knowledges and the triumphs of the assertion of human dignity, freedom, equality and sustainable development against the imbalances of power, knowledge and the colonial legacy (Sithole, 2014). It challenges rural pedagogies to be positively and practically, not only rethinking the very constitution of the present, but also the construction and reconstruction of African subjectivity as an important and integral project in rurally focused teaching and learning. In the face of the ever-growing divide between the rural and urban, and the South and the North, the innovative engagement of this educational challenge is needed today, more than ever before.

It is along the two trajectories – knowledge production and pedagogy innovation – that the Qwaqwa Campus of the University of the Free State, situated in the rural Afromontane region of the Maloti, invites scholars nationally and internationally to contribute theoretical and empirical papers on how rural epistemologies can be a force to be reckoned with in the epistemic space of sustainable development for all.

Colloquium Themes

- Theorising Rural Education (RE)
- Theorising Rural Education (RE) Knowledge Production
- Rural Knowledge Production and Sustainable Development
- Decolonizing the Tertiary Knowledge Space
- Teacher Education and Rural Pedagogies
- Decolonial Rural Pedagogies and Citizenship Education
- Teaching and Learning in the Rural Classroom
- Rural Knowledge in Mathematics Education
- The Rural Education Curriculum in Higher Education
- The Challenges of Teaching Practice in Rural Contexts
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training in the Era of Decolonisation
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training Education in Rural Contexts

Important Dates

- Deadline for topics and abstracts:
 - Monday 30 July 2018
- Confirmation of acceptance of papers:
 - Friday 3 August 2018

Abstracts should contain between 150 and 300 words

Please send proposed topics and abstracts of papers to surleccolloquium@ufs.ac.za



Key Information

Early Academic
Scholar registration
R800 (before
16/08/18)

Delegates need to submit proof of payment on or before the due date to ensure attendance/presentation at the conference.

Academic Scholars: ZAR1000 (after 15 August 2018)

Registered Postgraduate Students (Honours, Master's & PhD students): ZAR300

The **registration fee includes registration, conference material, refreshments and lunch during the day**, but excludes all travelling costs and accommodation. Attached herewith is the list of guesthouses/hotel within and around the Qwaqwa area.

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

Complete the delegate registration form and forward it to surleccolloquium@ufs.ac.za

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 surleccolloquium@ufs.ac.za

Selected and successful conference papers, after double blind peer reviews, will be considered for publication in the DHET-accredited journal ***Alternation: Interdisciplinary Journal for the study of the Arts and Humanities in Southern Africa***, and the ***African Journal of Education in Rural Contexts (UFS, Qwaqwa)***.

The Alternation Guidelines for authors and reference style sheet is available at:
<http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/submissions.aspx>

Post-conference deadline submission of papers for publication:	31 October 2018
Feedback from reviewers	31 December 2018
Return of corrected versions of papers	30 January 2019
Publication date for both journals	30 April 2019

We look forward welcoming you to the University of the Free State, Qwaqwa Campus
Phone Number: 0587185003 /5002 /5344 /5470
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NB:

- Please note that we do not publish conference proceedings. All papers submitted for publication, following the conference will go through the double-blind peer-review process and must adhere to the style sheet and deadlines stipulated.
- All costs (travel, accommodation, subsistence) related to participation in the conference must be covered by the participant, regardless of the abstract acceptance. The UFS Qwaqwa Campus is not liable and holds no responsibility for any of these costs.
- Payment details and account number will be issued on the acceptance of the abstract.