



MAHATMA GANDHI,
NELSON MANDELA &
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PAPERS

PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Mobilising for Nonviolent Change (*Ahimsa*)

Date: 06 – 09 JUNE 2023

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

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In view of the thought, values, practices and histories, of these icons, and leader-intellectuals of the 20th century, the call is to critically and constructively reflect, conceptualise, and mobilise for nonviolent peaceful change in a violent world.

For this purpose, the conference will bring together world-renowned academics, intellectuals, activists, and critical scholars.

The conference also serves to commemorate the 130th year of Gandhi's eviction from a train at the Pietermaritzburg station, on 07 June 1893, as a result of the British colonising policies and racist laws then in place in South Africa, and his resultant conceptualising of *satyagraha* (truth force).



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DATE: 06 – 09 June 2023

VENUE: Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

06 June 2023: Youth Symposium

07 June 2023: 7th June 1893 Gandhi Commemoration at
Pietermaritzburg Railway Station

Gala Dinner

Conference Keynote Address

08 – 09 June: GMK2023 Conference

CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

Hon. Dr. Ela Gandhi, Gandhi Development Trust, Durban, South Africa

Professor Clayborne Carson, Martin Luther King Jr., Centennial Professor Emeritus of History,

Freeman Spogly Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, USA

Ms. Razia Saleh, Director: Archive & Research, Mandela Foundation, South Africa

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Professor Johannes A. Smit, Chair: Humanities Institute, UKZN, South Africa

Mr. David Gengan, Chairperson Pietermaritzburg Gandhi Foundation, South Africa

Professor Prasad Gollanapalli, Managing Trustee, Gandhi King Foundation, India

Dr. Sriram Sonty, Vice-President, Gandhi Memorial Foundation, Chicago, USA

Mrs Karen Suter, Conference Administrator

CONFERENCE FOCUS

In an era where populist politics and ideologies have taken centre stage in many countries, this international congress brings to the fore three of the world's leader-intellectual historical *icons*, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, and Martin Luther King Jr.

Semiotically speaking, the term icon signifies a meaning or meaning system that transcends real time, space, reference, and causality. All three, Gandhi, Mandela, and King, in various ways, have been icons in their own lifetime, but also beyond. The congress seeks to recognise the worldwide *iconic status* of these three leaders by bringing them into an interdisciplinary intellectual space in which their legacy can be analysed and interpreted for the world today.

Each of these historical icons has in their own lifetime, context, and approach been and continues to be a towering *intellectual and strategist* of nonviolent action, and political resistance (e.g. Gandhi's "*satyagraha*" – truth force; and "*ahimsa*" – nonviolence).

Each in his own way, has through their ideas, historically analysed their empirical circumstances, and taken on the colonising forces of their day – Gandhi, the British Empire; Mandela, the internal racist colonising ideology and system of apartheid; and King, that of American racist ideology and capitalism.

Central aspects of the values they espoused were their struggles for *non-racial* equal recognition, freedom, social justice, economic equity, and the franchise.

Each icon developed their ideas, leadership styles, and intellectual legacy, in *practice*, within the midst of the most stringent forms of surveillance, physical and mental abuse, and threats of violence to their own persons.

Historically, of the three, Gandhi and King were assassinated, and Mandela spent 27 years in a South African apartheid prison. The latter, for his launching of *Umkhonto we Sizwe* as resistance to the racist apartheid regime then enforced on South Africans, and purported treason, in defence of the people of South Africa, and for the purpose of setting South Africa free of the racist apartheid ideology and rule.

Centrally significant, on all these five focuses (*icons, intellectuals, values, practices, and histories*), is the continuing relevance of the intellectual, analytical, philosophical, ethical, practical, and incisive historico-political contributions that Gandhi, Mandela and King have made to the history of thought, praxes, and values.

Each has been a world-wide respected icon, and nearly untouchable intellectual of high moral standing, in their own time and contexts, with continuing relevance for the 21st century.

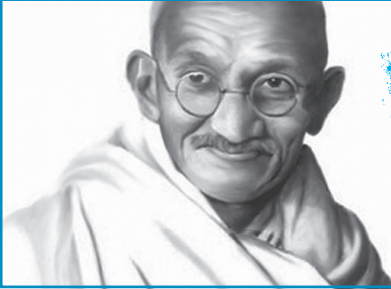
Each icon also functioned as an organic intellectual, developed, propagated, and left a very significant intellectual legacy and influence, rooted within their own continuously developing commitments and practices.

Each intellectualised their world in the midst of major international transformations and developments through their socially challenging and transformative speeches, writings, reports, and interviews.

Mobilisation for contextually-relevant transformative justice in their own era, they lead from the front in nonviolent mobilisation, action for peace, and justice.

And, in his own way, each also forms part of their collective international legacy, articulated with the achieving of freedom, equity and social justice through peaceful and nonviolent means.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



***“In a gentle way,
you can
shake the world.”***

– Mahatma Gandhi

The international congress is called under the auspices of the *Humanities Institute, University of KwaZulu-Natal* (Pietermaritzburg, SA), and the *Pietermaritzburg Gandhi Foundation*, in collaboration with the *Martin Luther King Jr., Freeman Spogly Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, USA*, the *Nelson Mandela Foundation, South Africa*, *Gandhi King Foundation, India*, and the *Gandhi-King Global Initiative* (India).

The congress seeks to offer an international interdisciplinary scholarly platform for the critical and constructive reflection on key current global issues, and how these articulate with the towering legacies of Gandhi, Mandela, and King. In respect of the problematising solution-driven thinking through some select global issues, in current and contextually-relevant ways, we hope that the conference will meaningfully contribute towards a greater appreciation of the relevance and practicalities for the achieving of global peace and justice, for a better and sustainable world for all.

The significance of this historic conference, is the anniversary of the 130th year of the young

barrister from India, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's eviction from a first-class train compartment at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station, on the evening of 7th June 1893, the incident which triggered his active nonviolence, and planted the seed for *satyagraha*.

It follows on the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of his birth in 2019, the 33rd year of the release of Nelson Mandela from prison, 11 February 1990, the 25th year of the observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday (MLK Day), by all the states of the United States of America, the celebration of the 65 years of independence of many African states, and the 29th year of the dawn of democracy in South Africa.

Ultimately, it is also an occasion to critically reflect on the *theme of transformative nonviolent, socially relevant mobilisation and action*, for which not only Gandhi, but also Mandela, and King, are world famous, as they in their own ways, continued aspects of Gandhi's thought-in-action, spanning 45 years – from the event at the Pietermaritzburg train station to his death at the hands of an assassin in January 1948.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Except for the Wednesday evening Conference Opening Keynote address by Professor Clayborne Carson, Roundtables will take place immediately following keynote addresses, and run in parallel streams throughout the conference.

So, this Call for Papers seeks proposals from individuals and panels that will form part of the Roundtables below and overleaf.

Please note that Roundtables are also articulated with Keynote Addresses.

CONFERENCE & ROUNDTABLES

Tuesday, 06 June 2023

Youth Symposium

Topic: Peace and Nonviolence in the 21st Century

Youth Roundtable

Topic: Learning from GMK, and Teaching about Peace, Justice and Nonviolence in the 21st Century

Wednesday, 07 June 2023

Welcome address: 18.30 – Professor Nhlanhla Mkhize
(Deputy Vice-Chancellor, College of Humanities, University of KwaZulu-Natal)

Opening: 18.45 – Hon. Dr. Ela Gandhi *(Gandhi Development Trust, SA)*

Keynote address: 19.00 – Professor Clayborne Carson
(Martin Luther King Jr., Centennial Professor Emeritus of History, Freeman Spogly Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, USA)

Topic: “Where Do We Go from Here?” GMK, and King’s still Unanswered Question

Followed by: Gala Dinner

The topic will be addressed to the event of 07 June 1893, and will involve reflections from perspectives involving the legacies of Gandhi, Mandela, and King.

Thursday, 08 – Friday, 09 June 2023

Five Keynote Plenaries will be followed by Parallel Roundtables

Keynote Papers are presented by Professor Clayborne Carson, Stanford University, USA; Professor Judith Brown, Oxford University, UK; Dr. Elizabeth Williams, Edinburgh University, Scotland; Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sello Hatang, Nelson Mandela Foundation, South Africa; and Professor Allan Boesak, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Roundtables are interspersed in the programme, and interested academics, intellectuals and activists, are invited to submit paper titles and abstracts with keywords, on topics which are relevant to the roundtable areas, and related to the intellectual legacies and life-histories of Gandhi, Mandela, and King. Roundtables are essentially comprising of panels, or 10-15 minute presentations, with roundtable discussion, towards publications.

Roundtables, will seek to historicise these icons as living human beings in terms of the complexities in which they have had to live, provide visionary leadership, and develop critically analytical agendas, and implementation strategies to lead towards the realisation of their visions.

ROUNDTABLES

Papers: Please indicate name and surname, topic, abstract of 100-150 words, and keywords. Papers may be 10 minutes or 15 minutes and address key notions of and perspectives on the Roundtable focus/es.

Panels: Please indicate names and surnames of panel members, institutional affiliations, panel topic, panel abstract of 100-150 words and panel keywords.

Panels will be 30 minutes.

Conference Roundtable #01 GMK, their Vision/s for the World, and Communication Technologies/eMedia in the 21st Century. It draws on the speeches, writings, communications and publications, of GMK. What were their vision/s of humanity, and the world? Where do we fail? What is the significance of their visions of the world, including the BRICS countries, for the 21st century? How do these visions articulate with libraries and the emedia?

Conference Roundtable #02 GMK, and Sustainable Self-rule Governance and Development. Reference may be to inter-cultural and inter-faith *Swaraj, Gramswaraj, Sarvodaya*, self-rule and sustainable governance for socio-economic development in the 21st Century rural, regional, municipal, and urban systems.

Conference Roundtable #03 GMK, Women, Health, and Equity in Governance and Economic Education. Seminal focuses may engage women and culture, patriarchy and gender equity, capability education and training, and communal capacity building for socio-economic advancement and social integration. Are there gendered common purposes?

Conference Roundtable #04 GMK, Human Rights, and Nonracial Global Peace and Justice through Nonviolent Action. Focuses will include aspects of equal human rights, related to capital punishment, gender, business ethics, the right to development, water-, food-, shelter-, energy-, and eco-justice, and sustainable environmental and personal rights, including the girl-child, and LGBTQI+ advocacy, for equitable communities.

Conference Roundtable #05 GMK, and how to Understand and Intervene in World and Regional Conflicts, through nonviolence. How may we understand the full objective complexities of war, violence, and conflict related to emotions, land, integrity, law, injustice, colonisation and struggles for freedom? How can we prevent war and conflict?

Conference Roundtable #06 Learning and Teaching about Gandhi, Mandela and King. Each of GMK, developed their own humanistic philosophies of life, that also embraced religion. So, this Roundtable engages their religio-humanistic ideologies and values, paired with optimally appropriate pedagogies and teaching approaches as well as learning experiences. It also includes material culture, archives, libraries, museums for education and research.

In relation to the provisional explication of seminal focuses related to Peace and Justice for All, today, globally, the Roundtables will provide guidance as to how to pro-actively address them.

Integratively, topics may then be primarily focused on GMK and their continuously developing discourse in the twentieth century modern world, governance, women and health, human rights, local and world conflicts, and nonviolent peace building, and teaching and learning about GMK.

CONGRESS DATES AND VENUES

Tuesday, 06 June 2023

09.00 – 17.00 **International Youth Symposium**
NAB, New Arts Block, UKZN

Wednesday, 07 June 2023

09.00 – 12.00 **Commemoration of the 7th June 1893 Event**
Pietermaritzburg Railway Station

18.00 – 21.00 **Gala Dinner and Official Opening of the Conference**
Pietermaritzburg City Hall

18.30 **GMK 2023 Welcome Address by Professor Nhlanhla Mkhize**
(Deputy Vice-Chancellor, College of Humanities, University of KwaZulu-Natal)

18.45 **GMK 2023 Opening of Conference by the Hon. Dr. Ela Gandhi**
(Gandhi Development Trust, South Africa)

19.00 **GMK 2023 Keynote Address by Professor Clayborne Carson**
(Martin Luther King Jr., Centennial Emeritus Professor of History, Freeman Spogly Institute for International Studies, Stanford, USA)

Thursday, 08 – Friday, 09 June 2023

08.00 – 17.00 **Gandhi, Mandela, King Conference**
NAB, New Arts Block, UKZN

The 2-day conference comprises of 5 plenaries and 6 parallel roundtables that will run over the two days.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS AND SCHEDULE

Submission of Individual Paper Proposals: **Friday, 14 April 2023**

Proposals for review to include *Title of Paper, Abstract* (100-150 words), *5-8 Keywords, Name of Institution* (if applicable), and *Short Biodata of Contributor/s* (100 words).

Submission of Panel Proposals (max 4): **Friday, 14 April 2023**

Panel proposals for review to include *Title of Panel, Abstract* (100-150 words), *5-8 Keywords, Name of Panel Chair, Name of Presenters in the Panel, Name of Institutions* (if applicable), and *Short Biodata of each Contributor* (100 words per contributor).

Notification of Paper/Panel Acceptance: **Friday, 21 April 2023**

All submitted proposals (individual papers and panels) will be notified individually, of the review outcome by 21 April 2023.

All proposals for individual papers and panels to be emailed to:

Mrs Karen Suter: GMK2023@ukzn.ac.za

cc: Chair of Conference Scientific Steering Committee: Professor J.A. Smit: Smitj@ukzn.ac.za



MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI

7TH JUNE 1893 COMMEMORATION EVENT

Wednesday, 07 June 2023
Pietermaritzburg Railway Station

This event marks the 130th anniversary of the eviction of the young barrister from India, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, from a first class train compartment at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station, on the evening of 7th June 1893, the night that changed the world.

The Pietermaritzburg Gandhi Foundation is planning to host delegates on a short steam train journey into Pietermaritzburg Railway Station, where the commemoration event will take place on the station platform. Delegates will be able to pay homage at the site where the eviction happened, where the seeds of *satyagraha* were planted, and view the permanent Gandhi Exhibition in the waiting room where he spent the night of 7th June 1893.

The commemorative event will conclude with a short function relating the story of the incident, and its transformative impact on the young Gandhi.

ACCOMMODATION



Southern Sun Pietermaritzburg: Golden Horse Casino & Entertainment

45 New England Road, Pietermaritzburg,
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

[https://www.tsogosungaming.com/hotel/
golden-horse-hotel/](https://www.tsogosungaming.com/hotel/golden-horse-hotel/)



Stay Easy Hotel

50 Sanctuary Rd, Woodlands, Pietermaritzburg

Tripadvisor Award-Winning & Budget Friendly

www.southern.sun.com/stayeasy-pietermaritzburg



Regal Inn Express Hotel

47 Alan Paton Rd, Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg

<https://regalinn.co.za/>



Road Lodge Pietermaritzburg

Cnr Hesketh Drive/New England Rd, Hayfields

[https://clhg.com/hotels/356/road-lodge-
pietermaritzburg](https://clhg.com/hotels/356/road-lodge-pietermaritzburg)

TRANSPORT



Taxi Services in Pietermaritzburg

<https://pietermaritzburg.infoinfo.co.za/search/taxi>

<https://www.snupit.co.za/pietermaritzburg/taxis>

<https://www.sayyellow.com/south-africa/taxis-andprivate-hire-vehicles-in-pietermaritzburg>

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE 24/7

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St Annes Hospital, Pietermaritzburg

331 Burger Str, Pietermaritzburg Central.

Hours: Open 24 hours.

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PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITY: ALTERNATION

Accepted paper and panel contributors are invited to submit their full manuscripts for consideration in a special guest-edited issue of *Alternation: Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Arts and Humanities in Southern Africa* (Print ISSN 1023-1757; Electronic ISSN 25195476).

Alternation is a fully accredited, peer reviewed South African Department of Higher Education and Training journal.

The founding Editor-in-Chief is Professor J.A. Smit, former Dean and Head of School, School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics, and the School of Arts (Acting), and published at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, on an Open Access platform. All articles are subject to peer-review by at least two independent peer reviewers. All articles that pass the review process, and that are accepted for publication, will be published online, at: <http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/archives/journal-archive.aspx>



The *Alternation* homepage is available at:

<http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/Homepage.aspx>

All manuscripts submitted for consideration in the special issue to comply with the *Guidelines for Contributors*, available on the following link:

<http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/submissions.aspx>

Full manuscripts to be submitted by: **15 July 2023**

Projected publication date: **December 2023**

Put in Subject line: GMK2023


Email Manuscripts to: Mrs Karen Suter – GMK2023@ukzn.ac.za


CC: *Alternation* Editor-in-Chief: Professor J.A. Smit – smitj@ukzn.ac.za

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