



Virtual Higher Education Conference



Higher Education Regional Collaboration:
Opportunities in Complex Times?

20 - 21 April 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

SARUA will be hosting a Virtual Higher Education conference with the theme: - Higher Education Regional Collaboration: Opportunities in Complex Times.

In the spirit of the Oxford Martin Commission Report for Future Generations (2013), where it recommended that: "international institutions, where appropriate, evaluate its relevance from time-to-time to ensure there is regular reflection and analysis of organisational performance and purpose. Such analysis must be transparent and inclusive and inspire institutions to be more innovative and adaptive within their mandates in response to 21st century demands. Where institutions are shown to have fulfilled their mandate and are no longer appropriate or adapted to the demands in question, their functions should cease, with resources and activities redirected to more appropriate institutions and challenges." SARUA went through an evaluation process and re-positioned itself as the Regional Collaborative Platform for all the SADC universities.



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It is further recognised that in today's interconnected world, we need a common platform for dialogue that speaks to all cultures and countries and seeks to advance common understanding and build a better world for future generations. The pressures of a deeply interconnected world require a stronger collective vision regarding our future and the longer-term needs of our societies.

SARUA's Virtual Higher Education Conference will focus on the issues that are shaping today's regional higher education collaboration. The Conference will also introduce to the SARUA University Network its newly formulated digital collaboration strategy to enable institutional collaboration.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Papers as well as thought pieces focusing on Higher Education Collaboration in the SADC Region with specific reference on its responsibility and influence on local and global matters are welcome. Considering the theme, papers and thought pieces addressing the main theme may consider the following sub-themes:

- Regional Collaboration of Higher Education in the post COVID-19 era and collaboration opportunities between the SADC Universities in addressing the SDG's.
- The latest innovations in Synchronies and A-Synchronies teaching during and after the Pandemic.
- Regional Collaboration: Leadership responsibilities.
- The Digitalisation and Digital Transformation of Higher Education Institutions' Activities: Challenges and Opportunities.



- Joint academic module development through Regional Collaboration at program specific level: Climate Change program development as an example of blended learning. Understanding program and pedagogical challenges in developing blended learning programs.
- Higher Education Internationalisation and regional collaboration: An example of South – South - North collaboration.
- The SADC – Protocol on Education and Training 20 years later: Is it still a vehicle to greater collaboration amongst the SADC Universities?

ABSTRACTS

An abstract of no more than 500 words, together with a short CV, should be submitted to **conference@sarua.org** by Friday, **5 March 2021**. In the case of co-authored papers, a short CV for each author should be included. Abstracts can include any one focus on mobility, collaboration, research, joint program/module development and integrating the local and the regional through collaboration.

Abstracts should explain the author's methodological approach, the principal arguments of the proposed paper, and how the paper's topic relates to the theme of the Conference. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their proposals by 25 February 2021. The authors of selected papers will be required to submit a 2,000-word extended abstract to **conference@sarua.org** by Friday, **26 March 2021**.

Authors who present at the Conference may also be invited to submit their papers for consideration for the Conference Proceedings. Authors will be contacted about this after the Conference.



FURTHER INFORMATION

The Conference program will be a combination of focussed plenary sessions, panel discussions and parallel sessions focussing on the different domains of Regional Collaboration of Higher Education. A digital platform to be used will provide a variety ways of conference participation, including plenary sessions, parallel session, working group sessions as well as regional communities of practice sessions.

Registration for the Conference will open in February 2021. Further information will be posted on SARUA's social media pages and website in due course. **In the interim, please contact nico.jooste@sarua.org with any questions or suggestions.**

