SYMPOSIUM THEME
Shifting towards Inclusive Mindsets - achieving meaningful participation for all

18 years on from White Paper 6,
South Africa continues its commitment to achieving an Inclusive Education system which ensures meaningful participation for all learners. What has been achieved, what still needs to be achieved, and what needs to happen in order for that to be achieved requires continued conversation. It is what teachers know, think and do that enables meaningful participation for all learners in their classrooms. Teachers work in the context of broader systems and deal with contextual realities. One of the necessary steps towards realising meaningful participation for all in learning is to ensure that teachers are supported to enact the disruptions necessary to reform the system. This means challenging exclusionary practices and replacing these with pedagogies that are inclusive of learner diversity. It means engaging with system constraints and ambiguities in order to imagine possibilities and solutions. It also means engaging with mindsets, knowledge and skills that support the realisation of inclusion.

This conference focuses on opening conversation spaces that invite delegates to participate in considering critical questions based on each sub-theme. For each sub-theme, research- and practice-based submissions are invited. The conference programme is structured to allow for presentation of papers which will act as a starting point for discussion. Conversation spaces are then facilitated for delegates to explore critical questions related to the sub-theme.

Through plenary panel discussions, posters, breakaway paper presentations, practice-oriented discussions, and various networking opportunities, the symposium expects to build capacity for teacher education for inclusive teaching. The following sub-themes will focus the deliberations:

- Understanding Inclusive Education
- Valuing & respecting diversity
- Classroom practices that support all learners
- Collaboration with others to enable inclusive teaching and learning
- Leadership for inclusive teaching
- Sharing of Reflective practice (testimonies, stories of self-reflection) on how to support inclusion
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We invite submission of abstracts for consideration as breakaway or plenary panel presentations of 20 minutes, or for poster presentations. These abstracts should be 250 words and will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Relevance of the topic to one of the Symposium sub-themes
- Clarity of research question(s) and/or focus of enquiry
- Quality of research
- Significance for practice, policy or theory in inclusive education

We also invite submissions of requests to present interactive, practice-focused breakaway sessions. This format is suited for the presentation and discussion of practice, and the sharing of strategies that realise the ideals of inclusive education. Submissions of requests should be up to 200 words and address the following:

- What is the practice/strategy?
- Why is the practice implemented?
- Who does it involve?
- How is it practiced?
- What recommendations are there for others?

IMPORTANT DATES

Closing date for submissions: Close of business on 15 April 2019

Announcement of abstract acceptance: 3 May 2019

Last date for registrations: 10 May 2018

Payment due by: 23 May 2018

REGISTRATION

You can submit your abstract at: https://southafrica.vvob.be/call-proposals-symposium-inclusive-education-2019

You can register at: https://southafrica.vvob.be/registration-symposium-inclusive-education-2019

COSTS

Payment instructions
- R500 (VAT included)
- Proof of registration to be provided

The fees for the symposium and workshops include attendance of all sessions, hand-outs, materials and refreshments.

KEY INFORMATION

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SYMPOSIUM VENUE

Emerald Conference Centre, Vanderbijlpark

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be available at the Conference Centre, as well as at a wide variety guesthouses in the area. A list of possible guesthouses can be found at: https://www.sleeping-out.co.za/accommodation-near/Emerald-Casino