



2018 SARIMA CONFERENCE

29 May – 1 June 2018, Misty Hills Country Hotel, Muldersdrift,
Johannesburg, South Africa

Call for Abstracts

We look forward to your joining us for a stimulating SARIMA Annual Conference in 2018. The broad theme will center on ***The research to innovation continuum in the 4th industrial revolution***. The conference speakers will be selected to ensure that the regional perspective is heard, however will also include international speakers from beyond SADC.

The programme comprises a number of sessions with different formats that are designed to stimulate and promote engagement and discussion. In addition to three plenary sessions there are a number of “structured” sessions as well as sessions for which abstracts from presenters are sought. Some of the structured sessions will use “World Café” style for engagement, whilst others will provide short, five-minute presentations on the topic, followed by debate and discussion, and subject experts will be contacted by the Organizing Committee for other structured sessions.

Delegates are also invited to submit poster presentations relating to the session topics. Posters will be on display throughout the conference.

Invitation to Submit Abstracts:

Abstracts are sought for oral or poster presentations under the following session topics:

CONFERENCE THEME: “The Research to Innovation continuum in the 4th industrial revolution”

The 2018 conference theme is built around Research management and innovation support in an age of social media, increased connectivity, the internet of things and artificial intelligence amongst other things. These technologies are sweeping through the industrial paradigm, in an era collectively referred to as the 4th Industrial Revolution. The term generally describes a process whereby complicated tasks traditionally associated with formal industry and/or government are moving into the realm of the individual, tasks that include prototyping, manufacturing, doing research, trading, paying for products and services and educating oneself. This revolution also includes changes to how we produce and distribute energy, how we plan and build our cities, and the ever decreasing gap between biological systems, our bodies and computers. This revolution has the potential to truly address issues of wealth sharing, inequality and social challenges.

When industrial and economic growth drivers are shifting in this ‘revolution’, so research and innovation management must go. From new ecosystems for supporting innovation, to research in social sciences assessing the impact of the shifts to individuals and societies. There is a need to ensure new ways of conducting research that leverages the technologies, and assesses the impact of this revolution, in the social context. *Plenary sessions will explore what Institutional support structures, from managing research through to facilitating innovation & tech transfer, are doing to prepare for and embrace the opportunities and challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution.*

1. **The impact of the 4th industrial revolution on technology innovation systems:** how does the nature and rate of technological change impact existing strategies for Technology Transfer. This session will look at new/current models and trends for commercialisation in that context.
2. **Prioritising the IP Portfolio:** With limited funding available to register all IP generated at institutions, it's increasingly important to prioritise within the IP Portfolio. Considering the technologies required to enter the 4th Industrial Revolution, it may be necessary to prioritise the advancement of certain technologies above others. This session will discuss the importance of identifying this IP, what skills are required to properly manage the portfolio to success, as well as how to substantiate and defend the Technology transfer office's decisions to their principals.
3. **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Intelligent machines that work and react like humans sounds like something out of a Sci-Fi movie. However, it is becoming more intertwined in our daily lives. Just ask Siri, who is getting smarter by the day. As part of the field of computer science it is important to understand how to identify AI and provide support to developers in this field. This session will explore the legal landscape and forms of protection available as well as the road to commercialisation, while not forgetting the ethical side of knowing when AI pushes the boundaries too far – where machines start controlling and dictating to humans; a not so farfetched concept.
4. **Finding Innovation Beyond the Patent:** This session will cover the commercialisation of trade marks, brands, image rights in celebrities, geographical indications, social innovation, copyright in art, music, film and media, etc. It will also include other models of commercialising IP such as through contract research, and how tech transfer offices facilitate access and use of 'other' IP, e.g. IP in library centres, in Art Centres, etc.
5. **Innovative platforms for driving & managing research and collaboration in a more connected world:** Digital connectivity has evolved the way on which research is undertaken, collaborations are borne and relationships and projects are managed. Researchers can work together on ground breaking research and research managers can manage these multinational collaborations without ever physically meeting. This session will explore if and how connectivity has improved the role of the research manager and what are the innovative platforms available to research managers in order to create and manage these virtual research partnerships.
6. **The Research Managers' perspective on how to adapt to technological changes and challenges:** New technology is transforming all aspects of research management and practice, but are we transforming as research managers? Does Technology threaten our existence and will robots take over the Research Office of the future? The session will address how these changes improve our day to day operations and how they challenge us in terms of our ability to keep abreast with changes and implement and adopt these within our organisations. This session will also cover how we pass on the right skills to equip future research managers, and raise address the question of what the future in research management looks like and how we can prepare for it.
7. **Collaborative research with emerging economies:** How can Southern African Research Management prepare itself to harness the opportunities of collaborative research with emerging economies/BRIC countries? Collaboration is one way to develop research capacity and excellence. We are used to supporting and promoting research collaboration with local universities and with universities in the developed world. Are we, however, prepared and ready to support collaboration with universities in the emerging economies e.g. BRIC countries. Take China as an example: are we geared to operate across cultures, languages and time zones? Will Skype work or do we need to develop alternative approaches to communication? Are the rules of authorship universal? Does contracting change? How can we be sure that the collaboration is fair and equitable, or are we being used to leverage funding for others? This session will present case studies on collaborative research programmes with partners in in the emerging economies/BRIC countries with a focus on what was done differently, whether any expectations were not fulfilled, and what learning can be gained for future collaborations.
8. **Research resources and funding in a changing world:** This session will cover complexities of managing resources and looking at different ways of funding research, e.g. as part of technology development and subsequent transfer, crowdfunding for research, etc.
9. **Excellence in Research Management:** This session will cover innovative research management methodologies and tools in the current context and environment. These can include guidelines, and templates for researchers, communication strategies between pre and post award functions in the institution, and how these interventions have yielded an improved service to researchers.
10. **The Business Case for a Research Management Office:** The justification / "Business case" of this office particularly in resource challenged universities is a challenge. Most universities in SADC are not provided with the necessary resources for setting up RM and TT offices. While salaries are provided for personnel, there is no guarantee of financial resources for training of staff, or investment in registering intellectual property and developing technologies to facilitate successful innovation. There are also different priorities and approaches for consideration in establishing such an office. The session invites contributions from institutions who are in the process of establishing, or have recently established, such offices, to provide information and discussion on how this challenge can be faced. The focus should be on sound approaches based on national or university (or other) policy.

11. **Managing research for transformative innovation:** This session will focus on management of research in support of a transformative innovation policy framework which stems from the need for fresh directions in science, technology and innovation (STI) policies, and thus yield alternative outcomes that sustainably enhance our societies. Research for societal impact is primarily driven by the needs and involvement of communities and other role players and less so dependent on governments. The session will also address how to use STI policy for meeting social needs, sustainability and inclusive societies, at a more fundamental level than previous framings or their associated practices. What are the potential underlying issues and how can research managers support such a research approach?
12. **“War and Peace” in Research Management:** Research managers and administrators often have to tread a thin line, placating angry academics, assuring bottom line driven management, mitigating legal and audit risks, and enticing fickle funders. Tensions arise when advising applicants on how best to secure funding, achieve maximum flexibility, but simultaneously complying with funder rules, which can even change mid-project, whilst the audit profession appear to be the only real beneficiaries. How best can research managers navigate this tightrope? This session will provide case studies that describe practices and methodologies used for satisfying all parties and re-establishing the ‘peace’.
13. **“War and Peace” in Innovation:** Innovation often involves highly complex IP ownership and access arrangements, exhausting commercialisation efforts, unpleasant management team dynamics and hard nosed funders., and how successful outcomes were eventually realised.
14. **Risk management in Research management:** What are the risks associated with research management and what are the mitigating strategies to be put in place? E.g. Qualified audits is a risk that will result in an institutions’ research funding discontinued. This session will cover the key risks involved in research management, as well as mitigation strategies and approaches.
15. **Risk management in Innovation management:** What are the risks associated with developing and commercialising a technology? This session will cover the key risks involved in facilitating successful innovation, as well as mitigation strategies and approaches.

How to Submit an Abstract:

Delegates wishing to present an oral or poster presentation are invited to submit a 250 word summary for consideration and inclusion in the programme.

Abstracts must be submitted online via www.sarimaconf.co.za. Please click on *ABSTRACTS*. Guidelines on how to use the online abstract system are available on the abstract site. The deadline for submissions is **26 January 2018**. The Conference Organising Committee reserves the right to allocate abstracts to oral and poster presentation sessions depending on space availability. Abstracts received will be acknowledged and notification of acceptance or rejection will be communicated by email by **28 February 2018**. Only MS Power Point will be accepted for oral presentations.

Please note:

All presenting authors are requested to fully register for the conference by **20 March 2018**. If registration and payment for the 2018 SARIMA Conference has not been received by this deadline, the presentation cannot be listed in the programme.

Abstract preparation guidelines

The following fields should be populated during online submission of the abstract:

Profile

The presenting author should create and complete the online submission and not a co-author. All communication will be sent to the author who created the profile.

The biography is compulsory as the chairperson will use this to introduce each speaker.

Title

Insert the full title of the proposed presentation. Title should not exceed 15 words.

Co-authors

Insert full names and contact information.

Co-presenter

Please select this function if another author will be co-presenting the paper with you at the conference (due to time limitations, as far as possible, only a single author should present in an oral presentation parallel sessions).

Session topic

Select the session topic under which you would like to present.

Text

Insert the text of the abstract. You will not be able to type additional words once the 250 word limit has been reached, so please check your abstract once submitted. Do not insert the title or co-authors in this text block. Check that special characters have copied correctly. Check that the full abstract has been successfully uploaded by logging out and logging in to your profile again.

Text will be limited to 250 words. Your abstract should state clearly what your presentation will cover, how it will contribute to the particular session and be of benefit to the audience.

Poster guidelines

The poster boards are 2.45m high and 90cm wide. The posters should comfortably fit onto the boards in portrait style. Oversize posters can unfortunately not be accommodated.



Poster exhibitors are requested to make A4 copies of their posters (suggested 10 copies at least) as well as their business cards available as hand-outs for delegates. Poster adhesive as well as a 'plastic sleeve holder' for the copies will be supplied by the organizers for each poster.

Please note the following deadline dates for presenters:

26 January 2018	Deadline for abstract submissions
28 February 2018	Feedback in terms of whether your submission has been accepted
20 March 2018	Deadline for registration
10 April 2018	Early registration closes
29 May – 1 June 2018	Conference

We look forward to receiving your abstract and your valuable input to vibrant discussions on developing research and innovation value chain.