



# 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 for Higher Education Development and Regional Impact in Complex Times* from 20 to 21 April 2021.**

In today's interconnected world, there is a need for a common platform for dialogue, which speaks to all cultures and countries, within regions and wider contexts, and seeks to advance common understanding and build a better world for future generations. The pressures of a deeply interconnected world require a more robust collective vision regarding our future and our societies' longer-term needs.

Over the past three years, SARUA has engaged in an evaluation and re-development process to re-position itself as an influential regional collaborative platform for all the SADC universities. This process has been guided by the recommendation of the Oxford Martin Commission Report for Future Generations (2013), which states:



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*“international institutions, where appropriate, evaluate their relevance from time-to-time to ensure that 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.”*

SARUA’s Virtual Higher Education Conference will focus on the issues that are shaping today’s regional higher education collaboration, drawing on international experience to focus on the SADC. The Conference will provide an opportunity for colleagues to engage around SARUA’s strategic focus areas. It will also introduce to the SARUA University Network its newly formulated digital collaboration strategy to enable institutional collaboration.

## CONFERENCE THEMES

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

- **Regional Collaboration of Higher Education in the post - COVID-19 era:**
  - Defining an agenda, and the role of leadership.
  - Collaboration opportunities and approaches between the SADC Universities in addressing the SDGs.
  - Innovations in learning and teaching during and after the pandemic. With particular attention to the pedagogical challenges relating to synchronous and asynchronous learning.
  - Joint academic programme development and offering through Regional Collaboration:
    - The case for joint academic programme development and offering;
    - Priority areas for joint programme development and offering;
    - The SARUA Climate Change project: An example of regional joint program development?
- **The Digital Transformation of Higher Education Institutions’ Activities: Challenges and Opportunities.**



- **Higher Education Internationalisation and regional collaboration:**
  - The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on internationalisation in the SADC; or
  - South-South-North Collaboration: Examples and Realities.
- **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](mailto:conference@sarua.org) by **05 March 2021**. In the case of co-authored papers, a short CV for each author should be included. Abstracts can include any one of the sub-themes.

Abstracts should identify the author's methodological approach, the principal arguments of the proposed paper, and how the paper's topic relates to the Conference's theme. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their proposals by **15 March 2021**. The authors of selected papers will be required to submit a 2,000-word extended abstract to [conference@sarua.org](mailto:conference@sarua.org) by **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 Regional Collaboration of Higher Education domains. Provision will be made for working group sessions as well as regional communities of practice sessions. Use will be made of a digital platform that will support various ways of participating in conference sessions and interacting with participants.

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](mailto:nico.jooste@sarua.org) with any questions.**

