Historical Association of South Africa

Call for Papers

Global African and Southern African Histories

HASA Biennial Conference 2027

University of Pretoria, Groenkloof Campus | *22-23 July 2027*

The Historical Association of South Africa (HASA) and the University of Pretoria invite proposals for the 2027 HASA Biennial Conference. The conference will bring together historians, history educators, postgraduate students, heritage and museum practitioners, and scholars in related fields to examine Africa's pasts across local, regional, continental and global scales.

The theme, *Global African and Southern African Histories*, places Southern Africa within the wider histories of the African continent and its diasporas. It takes Global Africa as both a field of historical inquiry and an analytical framework for tracing the movement of people, ideas, knowledge, cultures, commodities and political struggles across borders. At the same time, it foregrounds Southern Africa as a connected and contested region shaped by mobility, exchange, conflict, colonial rule, liberation, state formation and changing forms of belonging.

The conference particularly welcomes work that deepens, complicates or challenges established narratives of South Africa's historical relationship with neighbouring societies, the wider continent and African diasporas. Comparative, interdisciplinary, transnational and multilingual approaches are strongly encouraged.

Conference themes

- South Africa in Global Africa and the African diaspora
- Southern African regional histories, borderlands and cross-border networks
- Migration, mobility, exile, labour and transnational identities
- Slavery, colonialism, segregation, apartheid and liberation struggles
- Pan-Africanism, African nationalism, internationalism and decolonisation
- Land, agriculture, mining, labour and environmental histories
- Gender, sexuality, race, class, generation and belonging
- Indigenous histories, knowledge systems and African-centred historiographies
- Heritage, archaeology, memory, museums, tourism and public history
- History education, curriculum, textbooks and historical consciousness
- Biography, family history, microhistory, oral history and community archives
- Religion, culture, the arts, media and intellectual histories
- Digital history, artificial intelligence, social media and new historical methods
- New theoretical, methodological and archival approaches to African history

The list of themes is indicative rather than exhaustive. Proposals on other subjects are welcome. We also welcome Special Interest Groups (SIG) with panels of up to 4 participants.

Proposal formats

Individual papers. Submit a title and an abstract of 250-300 words in Word format, together with the author's name and surname, institutional affiliation, email address and a biographical note of no more than 100 words.

Organised panels. Submit a panel title and rationale of no more than 300 words in Word format, together with three or four individual paper abstracts of 250-300 words each. Include the names, affiliations, email addresses and brief biographical notes of all participants, and identify one panel convener as the contact person.

Roundtables and methodological conversations. Submit a 300-word rationale in Word explaining the question to be addressed, the proposed format and the contribution of each participant. Include participants' names, affiliations, email addresses and brief biographical notes.

Book launches and public-history events. Expressions of interest may be submitted separately for consideration with a short description of the publication or event and its relevance to the conference theme.

Submission and conference information

Item	Details
Conference venue	University of Pretoria, Groenkloof Campus, South Africa
Conference period	22-23 July 2027
Abstract length	250-300 words for each paper
Abstract submission deadline	15 March 2027
Notification of outcome	30 March 2027
Submission address	Johan.wassermann@up.ac.za and hasa@up.ac.za
Registration	**University Staff and other participants** @ R2 800.00 per delegate (refreshments, lunch and cocktail dinner included) **University Staff and other participants that are HASA members** @R2500 per delegate (refreshments, lunch and cocktail dinner included) **Postgraduate Students** @ R1 500.00 per delegate (refreshments, lunch and cocktail dinner included) **Payment details** Bank: ABSA Branch: Hatfield (33 55 45) Current account: 2140-280-480 Reference: HASA2027 + Initials and Surname **Proof of payment** Send proof of payment to: hasa@up.ac.za

Participation and regional engagement

Contributions are welcomed from established and emerging scholars, postgraduate students, school history teachers, pre-service teachers, archivists, archaeologists, museum and heritage practitioners, and researchers in related disciplines. HASA and the University of Pretoria especially encourage participation from across Southern Africa, and from scholars working on African and diasporic histories elsewhere in the world.

Funding

To support emerging scholars a limited number of bursaries (60) will be made available by HASA to support with conference registration for postgraduate students.

Masters and Doctoral students will be sponsored with R500 each to attend the conference; thus, reducing the conference fee to R1000.

Sponsorship is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis.

Abstracts for funding (250-300 words maximum), together with affiliation and all contact details, should be submitted to the following address: hasa@up.ac.za.

Abstracts for funding should be submitted by 15 March 2027. The outcome will be shared by 30 March 2027.