

CALL FOR PAPERS

DATE: 7 - 10 May 2019

VENUE: University of Mpumalanga, Nelspruit



Conference Theme: Public Affairs, Governance and the Fourth Industrial Revolution

South African Association of
Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM)

In collaboration with the
University of Mpumalanga



SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION
OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
AND MANAGEMENT



UNIVERSITY OF
MPUMALANGA

The nature of Public Affairs and Governance is embedded in the question of harnessing public resources to resolve the most pressing needs of society. Abraham Maslow's paper presented in 1943 on the hierarchy of human needs remains compelling to understand the human behaviour and needs in this context. These needs include physiological, safety, affiliation, self-esteem and self-actualisation. In essence, political parties in government are often considered catalysts in providing interventions to addressing some of these basic human needs issues in cases where they have collective value for a society. Classification of government in ministries and departments is an example of providing a focused approach to identify those needs which are inherently to the benefit of society as opposed to individual or private. Often a classification of this nature considers areas such as (public) health, (public) education, (public) policing, (public) arts and culture and (public) enterprises, among others. This kind of a situation begs for an art of public affairs and governance to provide institutional mechanisms to realise set goals for each area. In his seminal work on 'What is governance?', Francis Fukuyama's 2013 paper refers to this kind of a classification as the 'functioning of executive branches and their bureaucracies'. This is an important discourse on governance matters because a question of state capacity, meritocracy, deployment are among those which form critical aspects of maximising public resources in policy making and implementation of governments activities. This kind of a discourse undertakes an organising role where members of society with knowledge and expertise are considered to drive the agenda of political parties in government to realise their electoral promises to the populace. This is also to ensure that both the private sector and individuals find opportunities to realise their goals which would serve to advance society in various forms which are considered competitive both locally and abroad.

Furthermore, since the 18th century, human innovations have contributed to improvements of lives through the use of technology. This has continued to facilitate developments which made lives of people easier during some of the following critical phases and developments viz: Industrial, Rail, Steel and electricity, Oil, automobiles and mass production, as well as Information and communication technologies. These are some of the key developments phases which have changed the socio-economic and political landscapes of the world. The current discourse on the fourth industrial revolution considers the use of robotic technology to accelerate production levels within the employment sectors. In some instances to developed world, the robotic technology is already benefiting governments in several areas such as public transport, public health and public education.

The relevance of this theme 'Public Affairs, Governance and the Fourth Industrial Revolution' is premised on the intersection of these concepts within the discipline of Public Administration. In other words, the association between public affairs, governance and the fourth industrial revolution serves as an important consideration for delegates in determining the positioning of public institutions' readiness to absorb smart technology in their functioning. A more pragmatic approach is provided through provision of sub-themes for papers to be considered during SAAPAM's 19th Annual Conference.

SAAPAM's 19th Annual Conference will be co-hosted with the University of Mpumalanga in Nelspruit. Since its establishment by the government statute in 2013, the University of Mpumalanga has opened its doors to offer higher education qualifications during 2014. It has created and maintains a conducive and enabling teaching and research environment to conduct high-quality teaching and high impact research and scholarship. This is also achieved through collaborations with strategic partners locally, nationally and internationally. The university's newly built infrastructure is able to cater for a conference of SAAPAM's magnitude and even more. The infrastructure is of world class standards with modern finishings to allow a 21st century university environment for lectures and events. Nelspruit itself is the capital city of Mpumalanga province. The province is one of South Africa's top tourist destinations in which the majestic Three Rondavels, Kruger National Park and the traditional villages, among others are found. The timing and venue are ideal for SAAPAM's 2019 Annual Conference where delegates with their colleagues, friends and families could spend time adding leisure time to their plans. Delegates could undertake tourist plans either before or after the conference to allow maximum participation at the conference as well as enjoying discovering the magnificent Mpumalanga province. Delegates are also advised that a conference tour will also be arranged by the conference organising team.



Conference sub-themes

Governance and public affairs

- The state of public health provision
- Improving public education
- Public housing provision and managing informal settlements
- The role of state owned enterprises
- Social welfare system and indigent policy
- Land reform programmes and public management

State capacity, reforms and leadership

- Enhancing the performance management system
- Induction, education and training of public officials
- Improving research quality in the public sector
- Downsizing, retrenchments and transfers
- Human capital and skills development
- Public leadership from the heart and the question of legitimacy
- Values-based leadership and integrity

Public sector ethics, trust and values

- Developing and implementing public sector codes of conduct
- Societal values and linkages to public sector
- Maintaining trust in government
- Prevention and punishment of corruption and unethical conduct
- Transforming institutional culture in the public sector
- Institutional actors and programmes on social cohesion and nation building
- Whistleblower protection in the public sector

Election promises and the use of public institutions and resources

- Electoral reforms, democracy and the proportional representation electoral system
- Election outcomes and voting patterns
- The notion of free and fair elections
- The independence of Independent Electoral Commissions (IECs)
- Government, political parties and societal relationships
- Preventing post-electoral violence
- Local government and basic service delivery
- Unbundling the notion of coalition councils
- Municipal finances and auditing
- Intergovernmental relationship and the provision of quality services
- Public participation and local democracy
- Entrenched local protests and municipal governance structures
- Citizen focused services in local government



Fourth Industrial Revolution

- Artificial intelligence
- Internet of things
- Public service innovation models and discourses
- Recognising excellence in the public sector
- The functioning of Thusong Service Centres
- Open science and open data
- Taking a stock of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Teaching methods in Public Administration

- Examining the decolonisation of the Public Administration curriculum
- How do we Africanise P(p)ublic A(a)dministration both as a practice and science?
- Curriculum reform approaches, initiatives and outcomes
- Dominant teaching methods in Public Administration

Scholarship and Research in Public Administration

- What are the teleological, epistemological, ontological, axiological and methodological issues in Public Administration?
- The question of decolonising research methodologies
- Prominent mixed research methods in Public Administration
- Data collection methods and instruments

International Public Affairs and governance matters

- United Nations and Public Administration guidelines
- African Union, African Renaissance and the governance discourse
- SADC governance instruments and protocol
- BRICS strategy and governance issues

The National Board of the SAAPAM in collaboration with the University of Mpumalanga, invite you to the 19th Annual Conference to be held in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga province. Two types of contributions will be considered during this conference:

Firstly, Panel discussions

This is to allow a group of researchers, academics and thought leaders in Public Administration and Governance and broader social sciences disciplines to make submissions about their ideas related to the conference theme. In essence, presenters will have a dedicated session to present and interrogate their ideas and/or research findings with some of our top scholars in South Africa.

Secondly, individual submissions

These are normal individual submissions which are required to focus on any of the conference sub-themes. In this case, research papers, opinion pieces or ideas will be considered.

Conference edition of the Journal of Public Administration for 2019

Completed papers which adhere to the editorial guidelines of the Journal of Public Administration will be subjected to the normal triple-blind peer-reviewing process. The final decision to include these paper in the conference edition rests with editors once peer reviewing process is finalised. Only papers submitted by the due date will be considered for publication in the conference edition.



CONCLUSION

The conference will commence with a postgraduate seminar for those delegates who are registered for their Masters and Doctoral degrees. An experienced facilitator will present some of key considerations for masters and doctoral students in Public Administration.

Abstracts of between 250-350 words should be submitted on or before **30 November 2018**.

The following information need to be specified on the cover page:

- Title of Submission
- Conference sub-theme
- Name of author (s)
- Institutional affiliation of author (s)
- Address(es) of author (s)
- E-mail address (es) of author (s)

Papers submitted for possible publication in the conference edition of the *Journal of Public Administration* (JOPA) should strictly adhere to the editorial policy requirements regarding specifications for manuscript submissions.

The submission date for full papers is **28th February 2019**.

In keeping with item 3 of the Editorial Policy of the *Journal of Public Administration*, all papers submitted by the due date shall be circulated anonymously to specialist referees for evaluation. It is only on the basis of the referees' reports that the Editor may either accept or reject any paper submitted for possible publication in the subsequent edition of the *Journal*. Except in special cases where prior permission has been obtained, papers should not exceed 8000 words.

Prospective contributors are specifically requested to ensure that the language and technical aspects of their contributions are of high standard. In this regard, proof to this effect would be required.

**Papers should be submitted electronically;
typed in 1.5 line spacing,
12pt Times New Roman and accompanied by an English abstract of between 250 and 350 words.**

Since papers are circulated anonymously for evaluation, the name and affiliation of the author(s) should be on a separate page. **Only the Harvard style will be accepted for references.**

Abstracts and full papers should be-e mailed to

SAAPAM@tut.ac.za and copy **john.molepo@nwu.ac.za**.

By submitting a paper, authors certify that all co-authors are aware of the submission and consent to presentation of the work. All submission must be in Microsoft word. Include the contact information for all authors on the first page of the document.



Benefits of attending the conference

The conference provides an access to the formal communication network with SAAPAM members, and ample opportunity for networking and building bonds between practitioners, academics, researchers and other professionals in the discipline of Public Administration and Management.

Important dates (must be received at our office by)

Submission of abstracts	30 November 2018
Notification of acceptance/non-acceptance	15 December 2018
Submission of full papers	28 February 2019
Final payment for registration	31 March 2019
Late payment for registration	15 April 2019
Event dates	07-10 May 2019

Presentation Equipment

Each conference room will be equipped with a computer and LCD projector.

How to register

Complete the attached Registration Form and email it for the attention of the Executive Director: SAAPAM at SAAPAM@tut.ac.za and copy john.molepo@nwu.ac.za.

Please remember to attach proof of payment.

Conference Fees

Deadline: 31 March 2019

Conference registration fees are not refundable or transferable. Conference registration fee of

R4500-00 per delegate (Members)

R5000-00 (non-members) are payable.

Please note that this amount does not include accommodation. The booking and payment of accommodation is a (separate) responsibility of the delegate. Some details about hotels are available below.

Please note that this is a prepaid event.

Payment and registration is required by **31 March 2019**.

Payments can be made into the following Bank Account:

Name of the Bank:	Standard Bank
Account Holder:	SAAPAM
Account Number:	012580015
Branch Code:	01-15-45-15

Kindly scan and email proof of payment for the attention of Mr John Molepo at:

SAAPAM@tut.ac.za and copy **john.molepo@nwu.ac.za**.



GALA DINNER

Gala dinner will be held on **Thursday, 09 May 2019 at 18h00.**

LIST OF HOTELS

Chill Pepper Boutique Hotel

Charmaine Kruger

Reservationist

Chill Pepper Boutique Hotel

8 Ripple Crescent, Riverside Park, Nelspruit

Tel: 013 757 0370 Fax: 086 274 6340

info@chillpepperhotel.co.za

Emnotweni Southern Sun and Stay Easy Hotel

Goitsi Tsolanku

Sales Manager – Mpumalanga

Tel: +27 13 757 0012 | Cell: +27 71 411 8003

Southern Sun Emnotweni | Government Boulevard | Riverside Park Ext 1 | Nelspruit | 1200

Goitsi.Tsolanku@tsogosun.com

Bundu Lodge

Karin Roos

Banqueting Coordinator

+27 13 758 1221

R40 between Nelspruit and White River

bundulodge.co.za

reservations@bundulodge.co.za

Ingwenyama Lodge

Tel: +27 (0)13 750 7000

Plot 64 White River, 1240

gm@ingwenyama.co.za



REGISTRATION FORM

Delegate details

Title _____

First name _____

Surname _____

Organisation _____

Department _____

Job title _____

Contact details

Tel _____

Cell _____

E-mail _____

Full postal address _____

_____ Postal code _____

City _____

Country _____

Disability access

My requirements are: _____

Special requests

Dietary requirements

Vegetarian

Halaal

Diabetic

Other:

