



in collaboration with UNICEF South Africa

**THIRD AND FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS
CLOSING DATE SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 2015**

**SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
2ND CONFERENCE**

Visit our website: www.saraece.org.za

CONFERENCE DATES

Main Conference: 20 to 22 January 2016

VENUE: University of Johannesburg, School of Hospitality and Tourism

THIRD and FINAL call for papers

THEME: Thinking and Learning Through Research in Early Childhood Education (birth to 9)

A. INTRODUCTION

There is increasing interest in understanding how Early Childhood Education - ECE (inclusive of care) is understood and experienced internationally. This includes both the preschool years (*Pre-Grade R*) and early primary education (*Foundation Phase*). A growing body of evidence from different disciplines are used to create a series of truths about what ECE should look like, what works best for young children and why. Taking into account the importance of research in ECE there is a critical need to raise its status to an academic activity which is able to leverage the best outcomes for young child. This response is critical bearing in mind that the absence of underpinnings of research leads to ECE being driven by outdated theory, narrow ideology, dogma, convenience and prejudice. These limiting dimensions hamper the possibilities for motivating learning, analysing information, adapting behaviour, reforming/transforming

practice in the light of new information and improving interventions based on new contextual demands.

The theme of this conference is a challenge to all concerned with the best interest of young children - researchers, policymakers, practitioners and teachers. We need to examine what is the current situation, why this is so and how do we move forward. The SARAECE 2nd conference will create space for dialogue and a transformative action-oriented agenda as we ponder over questions such as:

- What is the status of research in influencing thinking and learning in ECE in our context?
- What are barriers to ECE knowledge creation and production in our context?
- How do we use SARAECE and other avenues to mediate change for research in ECE?

B. SUB THEMES FOR PAPERS

There are 7 themes selected to deepen the understanding of *Thinking and Learning through Research in ECE – birth to nine*. Papers must fit into the following themes:

- Early Childhood Policy and Practice (including Curriculum, Pedagogies and Assessment)
- Early Mathematics
- Early Literacy
- Annual National Assessment Standards in the Foundation Phase
- Teacher development and professionalisation
- Diversity and social justice
- Supporting families and communities

C. SESSION FORMATS

This conference is made up of three session formats

- **Paper presentations**
A 20 -minute presentation and 10 minutes for audience interaction. Presentations will be grouped together to form logical themes where possible and may be structured for round-table discussions.
- **Panel presentations**
These sessions will comprise 3/4 thematically related presentations which must be submitted as one unit. Each presentation will be allowed 15 mins, followed by 15-30 minutes (depending on number of papers) of facilitated discussion. (90 mins)
- **Poster presentations**
Research projects both in progress and completed can be displayed allowing delegates to engage in dialogue with the researcher(s). Posters will be displayed throughout the programme with specific time allocated for discussions.

NB - The Chair for each session will present a summary of 3 key ideas emanating from the theme and its implications for mediating change for research in ECE at a plenary session on Day 3.

a. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

All proposals must be sent to besterec@ufs.ac.za using the prescribed form. Proposals that do not meet all the requirements below will not be considered.

Guidelines for proposals

Word limit: 1000 words

Background: Give an overview of the issue under discussion, the problem the research addresses and the aim of the research.

Methods: Describe the research approach, study period / setting / location, participants, data collection and methods of analysis used.

Findings: Present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings/outcome of the study.

Conclusions: Explain the significance of the findings and implications related to the theme - *Thinking and Learning from Research in ECE*.

The following review criteria will be used to evaluate the proposal:

1. Does the proposal adhere to the word limit?
2. Is background of the study and aims clear?
3. Is the methodology/study design appropriate for the aim?
4. Are the findings of the study clearly presented?
5. Do the conclusions flow logically from the findings?
6. Is the study of importance to the ECE context and does it contribute to the conference theme – *thinking and learning from research in ECE*?

b. SPECIAL ISSUE OF SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL

SARAECE is committed to developing researchers and promoting high quality research. All proposals will be blind reviewed. Based on merit, the editorial panel of the journal affiliated to SARAECE, namely, the *South African Journal of Childhood Education* will be selecting full papers for the *Special Issue on Thinking and Learning from Research in ECD*.

c. DATES FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The final date for THIS CALL FOR proposals: 25 OCTOBER 2015

Acknowledgement of receipt of all proposals:

An e-mail will be sent to the presenting author(s) to acknowledge receipt of proposals. The author will also be issued with a proposal number that should be stated in all further correspondence.

Notification of acceptance/ non-acceptance of proposal:

Continuous process beginning August 2015 to not later than 15 November 2015.

d. REGISTRATION

Closing date for conference attendance registration FOR the final call :

15 November

Confirmation of registration will be e-mailed within three working days, and invoices will be issued.

Final date for payment of registration fees:

15 November 2015

Registration Procedure

Complete the delegate registration form and forward it to Elsa Bester. An official invoice will subsequently be e-mailed to you to confirm your successful registration.

Please fax/e-mail a copy of the deposit slip or proof of electronic transfer, to Elsa Bester

Fax no.: +27 (0)51 4012010

E-mail: besterec@ufs.ac.za

Registration Fees and Gala Dinner

Conference fees include refreshments, lunch, materials, conference publication (electronic) and

GALA DINNER: 21 JANUARY 2016

Early bird registration – full members R3 000

1. Register before **15 June 2015**
2. Provide proof of payment before 15 July 2015
3. Provide membership number
(Membership form attached)

Early bird registration – non-members R3 500

1. Register before **15 June 2015**
2. Provide proof of payment before 15 July 2015

Standard registration – full members R 3 500

1. Register before **10 November 2015**

2. Provide proof of payment before 15 November 2015
3. Provide membership number
(Membership form attached)

Standard registration- non-members R 4 000

1. Register before **10 November 2015**
2. Provide proof of payment before 15 November 2015

One day attendance: R1 350

1. Register before **10 November 2015**
2. Provide proof of payment before 15 November 2015

e. ENQUIRIES: ABSTRACTS, REGISTRATION & GENERAL INFORMATION

Elsa Bester
Conference Administrator (SARAECE 2016)
Fax : 27 (0) 51 4012010
Phone: 27 (0) 51 4013057
E-mail: besterec@ufs.ac.za

f. ACCOMMODATION

Please note that accommodation is not included in the conference fee and that delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements and payment.

g. TRANSPORT

Delegates are responsible for their own transport arrangements and payment, none of which are included in the conference fee. Delegates can arrange with the venue for a shuttle service from OR Tambo Airport (Johannesburg) to the venue and back to the airport.

h. DETAILS OF VENUE

- GPS Coordinates
SOUTH 26 11 25.5 EAST 28 01 09.5

- Address
School of Tourism and Hospitality
The Kerzner Building
University of Johannesburg
Auckland Park Bunting Road Campus
Bunting Road
Cottesloe
Johannesburg
011 559 1141/1142

i. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Prof HB Ebrahim (President)
- Dr L Excell (Deputy President)
- Ms R Notshulwana (Secretary)
- Dr M Ramabenyane (Treasurer)
- Associate Prof N.C Phatudi
- Dr O Janse Van Rensburg
- Dr N Sotuku
- Dr C Verbeek
- Dr T Mbatha
- Ms N Rousseau
- Ms L Kok
- Prof E Henning (Editor - South African Journal of Childhood Education)