



**SOUTH AFRICA RESEARCH ASSOCIATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
2<sup>ND</sup> CONFERENCE**

Visit our website: [www.saraece.org.za](http://www.saraece.org.za)

**CONFERENCE DATES**

**Main Conference: 20 to 22 January 2016**

**Preconference: 18 to 19 January 2016 (to be confirmed – see point “i” for further details)**

**VENUE: University of Johannesburg, School of Hospitality and Tourism**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Announcement and 1<sup>st</sup> 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 This response is critical bearing in mind that the absence of underpinnings of research leads to ECE being driven by outdated theory, narrow ideology, dogma, convenience and prejudice.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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 proposal: 30 JULY 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:**

*29 July 2015*

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](mailto:besterec@ufs.ac.za)

## Registration Fees and Gala Dinner

Conference fees include refreshments, lunch, materials 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 29 July 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 29 July 2015
2. Provide proof of payment before 15 November 2015

**One day attendance:** R1 350

1. Register before 29 July 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](mailto: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. PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

The need for a two-day workshop focusing on academic writing arose from the SARAECE Postgraduate Supervision Workshop funded by the Department of Higher Education in October 2014 and January 2015. SARAECE has requested that some funding be dedicated to the proposed workshop. If we are successful we will make funding available for selected delegates.

#### **j. 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)