

# AESIS

NETWORK FOR  
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE

## Societal Impact of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts

The international conference on creating, improving  
and evidencing inclusive societal impact through  
engaged research with policy, industry and the public.



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

16 - 18 October 2024

Cape Town, South Africa

# ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

In 2021 AESIS intended to organise their international impact conference in Cape Town, but given the global pandemic which took place, it resulted in an online, though dynamic, conference. This year, AESIS is proud to announce that the next edition of our **‘Societal Impact of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts on Society’** Conference, will finally be hosted in person in **Cape Town, South Africa!** To facilitate the aim of the conference, we will be bringing together stakeholders such as research managers, administrators, evaluators, policy makers, funders, entrepreneurs, publishers, NGO’s, media and many more. During this conference they exchanged experiences and good practices in order to catalyse developments in strategies, policies, methods, tools and approaches that were being used to make sure that SSHA, in collaboration with societal stakeholders and other disciplines, could have the most positive and inclusive impact on wellbeing, culture, economy, environment, health, education, and all kinds of challenges that are being faced in the world.

In the past years, the call to transform interdisciplinary research evidence into accessible, understandable, trusted and useable knowledge for societal stakeholders has been of utmost importance amidst persisting global challenges such as the pandemic, climate change, poverty, other inequities and more. The Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts (SSHA) disciplines are able to offer much value in addressing these challenges yet are often undervalued; therefore it is necessary to enhance supporting structures, policies and strategies, develop a more robust framework for assessing impact, foster coalitions with parties from business, government, and not-for-profits, and engage with the broader public in order to generate a profound impact of SSHA on society.

The conference will be focusing on the three main themes of: from Engagement and Communication, Policy, Funding and Recognition, and Infrastructures, Facilities and Tools. It will comprise of experts from all around the world delivering presentations, interactive round tables, teaching workshops and more. This international gathering will bring together research managers, science policymakers, funders, knowledge exchange experts, and other relevant impact professionals from around the world to share best-practices and discuss topics such as: How can we foster trust in and the credibility of SSHA research?; What does impact mean in the context of different segments of society, and through which robust and valid indicators can you assess it?; What opportunities for collaborations with societal stakeholders are there, and how may co-creation of knowledge with other disciplines and sectors play a role in stimulating impact?

Come join this conference full of presentations, workshops, round tables and social activities, meet your peers from all over the world and accelerate your work in the field of societal impact of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts. We look forward to seeing you there!



Research managers  
& administrators



Policymakers &  
Science funders

## TARGET GROUPS



KE professionals, and  
other interested profes-  
sionals in science and  
society



Researchers



Evaluators



# ABOUT AESIS

The Network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science (AESIS) is an international, open community for professionals working on stimulating and demonstrating the impact of science on economy, culture and well-being. Members come from all over the world, where they are involved in the evaluation of impact, research strategy and policy making, science funding, scientometrics, research administration, business creation, public engagement, and many more. We pursue a multi-stakeholder, system-wide approach on an international level, because we believe that stimulating dialogue between different sectors and regions, beyond the project level, will catalyse further development of effective instruments for evaluating and advancing the societal impact of science.

## ADVISORY & ASSOCIATION

### AESIS Advisory Board

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<b>Koenraad Debackere</b>	Executive Director of KU Leuven Research and Development & Chairman of Board of Directors, KBC Group NV, Belgium
<b>Genevieve Simpson</b>	Director, Planning & Development, National Research Foundation, South Africa
<b>Luke Georghiou</b>	Vice-President, Research and Innovation and Professor of Science and Technology Policy, University of Manchester, United Kingdom
<b>Barend van der Meulen</b>	Professor Institutional Aspects of (Higher) Education, Director CHEPS, Twente University, The Netherlands
<b>Andrew Plume</b>	Senior Director, Research Evaluation, Elsevier, United Kingdom
<b>Susan Renoe</b>	Associate Vice Chancellor, University of Missouri & Executive Director, NSF Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society, United States of America
<b>Toby Smith</b>	Vice President of Policy, American Association of Universities, United States of America
<b>David Sweeney</b>	Former Executive Chair, Research England, United Kingdom
<b>Paul Wouters</b>	Dean of Social and Behavioural Sciences & former Director, CWTS, Leiden University, The Netherlands

### Conference Programme Advisory Committee

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<b>Heidi van Rooyen</b>	Group Executive: Impact Centre, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa
<b>Genevieve Simpson</b>	Director, Planning & Development, National Research Foundation, South Africa
<b>UCT representative</b>	

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# LOCATION

## Cape Town, South Africa

South Africa has three capitals, **Cape Town** is the legislative one, Bloemfontein is the judicial, and Pretoria is the administrative capital also being the one used as a single capital. The reason behind this interesting and unusual structure is given the countries' historical and colonial background. This conference will take place on the southern coast of the country, and only 50 kilometer from the lowest point of the continent, Cape of Good Hope. The climate in Cape Town is Mediterranean, being around 20 degrees in October.

# VENUE



**Graduate School of Business** is **University of Cape Town's** conference venue located at the Protea Hotel, Cape Town Waterfront Breakwater Lodge.

# DIRECTIONS

## Landing in Cape Town, South Africa

**Cape Town International Airport**, is the closest airport which can be reached from many international destinations. Alternatively, you can fly into **O.R Tambo International Airport** in Johannesburg and take a connecting flight.



## Getting from Cape Town International Airport to Protea Hotel

From Cape Town International **Airport** you can take a car to Protea Hotel Cape Town Waterfront which depending on the time of the day is a 25-45 minute car ride.




# PROGRAMME FORMAT

The three-day programme (detailed in the following pages) includes several types of sessions as well as three “tracks” running through the days to help you choose the relevant elements for your work and get the most out of the conference. To help you decide, we describe the types of formats and tracks below:

<b>Roundtable sessions</b>	At the beginning of the session, the roundtable coordinators will introduce the topic and the discussion points, after which the whole group participates in the hour long conversation, sharing insights and experiences.	Pre-registration required, maximum 20 attendees
<b>Workshops</b>	The workshops offer a more practical experience to specific skills in order to improve and/demonstrate impact. The trainers offer a taste of possible hands-on learnings and potential follow up after the conference.	Pre-registration required, maximum 25 attendees
<b>Other parallel sessions</b>	Most other parallel sessions will include several presentations from different perspectives, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A. Although this is the original format that has been suggested to speakers, some might surprise you...	No limited number of attendees. Also accessible to online participants
<b>Plenary sessions</b>	The plenary sessions are all different from each other in topics and/or formats, but all of them allow for input and questions from the audience. Don't forget to have your phone with the conference app on standby. You will need it!	No limited number of attendees. Also accessible to online participants



**Engagement and  
Communication**



**Policy, Funding and Recognition**



**Infrastructures, Facilities and  
Tools**

Not all sessions belong to one of these three tracks as there are many other topics being covered during the conference. You can also choose to follow the whole track, part of them, or none of them — it is up to you!

# Wednesday, 16 October

9.00-9.30

## WALK IN & REGISTRATION



You are welcomed at the entrance and coffee and tea are served

- Lobby -

The conference app is available and the helpdesk is open for any technical issues or support

- AESIS App -



9.30-9.40

## WORDS OF WELCOME

9.30

Conference chair:

9.40-10.55

## OPENING PLENARY: TRANSITIONING TO IMPACT - WHY AND WHERE ARE WE?

9.40

**Sarah Mosoetsa**

Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

Topic:

9.55

*Australian Research Council*

Topic:

10.10

Topic:

10.25

Panel discussion and Q&A

10.50

11.00-11.40

## COFFEE, TEA & GROUP PHOTO BREAK

Learn more about the partners of this conference, without whom we wouldn't be here

- Lobby -



The app also allows for communicating with other attendees through chat

- AESIS App -





# Wednesday, 16 October

11.40-12.55

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

### ▼ Collaboration with SMEs

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Balzhan Orazbayeva**

Strategic Initiatives Manager, University Industry Innovation Network, The Netherlands

**Melanie Knetsch**

Deputy Director, Impact & Innovation, Economic and Social Research Council, United Kingdom

### ▼ Longterm regional collaboration structures

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Rick Delbridge**

Special Advisor for R&I, Learned Society of Wales, United Kingdom

**David Safro Ameyaw**

Kenya

### ▼ Assessment frameworks of Impact

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Astrid Schmied**

Research Scientist, National Institute of Education, Singapore

### Open Science & Impact

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Georg Russegger**

Head of Open Innovation in Science Center, Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft, Austria

**Megha Sud\***

### ▼ Workshop: Institution Readiness level

*Location*

*David Phipps or Julie Bayley*

▼ = Engagement & Communication

▼ = Policy, Funding & Recognition

▼ = Infrastructures, Facilities & Tools

\* to be confirmed

## Wednesday, 16 October

12.55-13.55

LUNCH BREAK + GOOD PRACTICES OF SOCIETAL IMPACT STORIES

13.55-15.25

INTERACTIVE PANEL

13.55      Presentation of the recommendations from the parallel sessions

14.05

*Topic description tbc*

**David Budtz Pedersen** - Professor of Science Communication & Impact Studies, Humanomics Research Centre, Aalborg University, Denmark

15.15      Closing words from the Chair

15.25-15.55

REFRESHMENT BREAK

15.55-17.25

SOCIAL PROGRAMME (Pre-registration required)

18.30-20.30

CONFERENCE DINNER (Pre-registration required)





# Thursday, 17 October

9.00-9.30

## WALK IN & REGISTRATION



You are welcomed at the entrance and coffee and tea are served

- Lobby -



The conference app is available and the helpdesk is open for any technical issues or support

- AESIS App -

9.30-9.40

## WORDS OF WELCOME

9.30 Conference chair:

9.40-10.50

## PLENARY OPENING: SOCIETAL IMPACT - GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVES

9.40 Imitaz Sooliman\* Gift of the Givers

Topic tbd

9.55  
Topic tbd

10.10 X  
Topic tbd

10.25 Panel discussion

10.50-11.15

## COFFEE & TEA BREAK

Interact with fellow participants, speakers and partners while enjoying some refreshments

- Lobby -



Online participants can also visit the online booths of our partners and find out about the work they do

- AESIS App -

Thursday, 17 October

11.15-12.30

PARALLEL SESSIONS + WORKSHOP

▼ Evidence informed policy making

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Frank Zwetsloot**

Founder & CEO of ScienceWorks, Netherlands

**Renee Hector Kannemeyer\***

South Africa

**Soledad Quiroz Valenzuela**

Chile

▼ Impact in an institutional strategy

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Michael Gastrow**

Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

**Tamika Heiden\***

Australia

▼ Incentivising policies for impact on a national & regional level

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Erika Kraemer-Mbula\***

University of Johannesburg, South Africa

**Nora Ndege\***

Kenya

Teams and Interdisciplinary

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

▼ Workshop: tbc

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Christoph Köller**

Co-founder & Managing Partner, Görgen & Köller GmbH, Germany



# Thursday, 17 October

12.30-13.20

## LUNCH BREAK + GOOD PRACTICES OF SOCIETAL IMPACT STORIES

During this lunch buffet, you will have the opportunity to walk around and view different booths that are located around the lunch area. This will give you the option to listen to different organisations presenting their impact work.

13.20-14.20

## ROUNDTABLES SESSIONS

### ▼ International collaboration

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Savathrie Margie Maistry**  
South Africa

### ▼ Bridging gaps within the institution

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Renira Narrandes\***

### ▼ Inclusiveness in engagement

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

**Diana Sanchez**  
Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

## Plenary session

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

14.20-14.45

## REFRESHMENT BREAK

14.45-15.45

## AESIS FAMILY FEUD & IMPACT DEBATE

14.45

**Presentations of the recommendations from the parallel and roundtable sessions**

14.55

**The impact game show** - In this fun and insightful “family-feud” style session, two teams will compete to answer questions about the societal impact of social sciences, humanities and arts, with the winning team earning time between each round to debate and elaborate on these challenges within their own experiences.

**Host**

**Team #1**

**Rick Delbridge**

**Team #2**

▼ = Engagement & Communication

▼ = Policy, Funding & Recognition

▼ = Infrastructures, Facilities & Tools

\* to be confirmed

Thursday, 17 October

15.45-17.00

SOCIAL PROGRAMME (Pre-registration required)

To be confirmed...



18.00-20.30

CONFERENCE DINNER (Pre-registration required)



To be confirmed...





# Friday, 18 October

9.00-9.30	WALK IN & REGISTRATION
9.30-9.40	WORDS OF WELCOME

9.30 Conference chair:

9.40-11.15	PLENARY OPENING: TRANSDISCIPLINARITY FOR MULTIDIMENTIONAL CHALLENGES
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9.40 X University of Cape Town, South Africa

Topic TBD

9.55 X

Topic: TBD

10.10 **Melanie Knetsch** - Deputy Director, Impact & Innovation, Economic and Social Research Council, United Kingdom

Topic: TBD

10.25 **Annetje Ottow\***

Topic: TBD

10.40 **Panel discussion**

11.15-11.45	COFFEE & TEA BREAK
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# Friday, 18 October

11.45-13.00

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

### ▼ Co-creation and communities

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

#### **David Budtz Pedersen (Chair)**

Professor of Science Communication & Impact Studies,  
Humanomics Research Centre, Aalborg University, Denmark

#### **Vhonani Netshandama**

University of Venda, South Africa

### ▼ Methods and tools for demonstrating impact

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

#### **Nader Ale Ebrahim**

Research Visibility and Impact Center, Iran

#### **Nelius Boshoff**

University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

### ▼ Incentivising, enabling & training researchers for impact

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

#### **Azwihangwisi Helen Mavhandu-Mudzusi**

Head of Research and Graduate Studies, University of South  
Africa, South Africa

### Impact through business developments

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

#### **Rosemary Wolson\***

Univeristy of Johannesburg, South Africa

#### **Wilfred Mijnhardt**

Policy Director at RSM, Erasmus University, Netherlands

### ▼ Workshop: Creative digital communication

*Location*

*Topic description tbc*

▼ = Engagement & Communication

▼ = Policy, Funding & Recognition

▼ = Infrastructures, Facilities & Tools

# Friday, 18 October

13.00-14.00	LUNCH BREAK + GOOD PRACTICES OF SOCIETAL IMPACT STORIES
14.00-15.30	CLOSING PLENARY:
14.00	Presentation of the recommendations from all the parallel sessions
14.30	Panel with:
	Tamika Heiden*                      Australia
15.15	Closing remarks by the conference chair
15.30-16:00	CLOSING RECEPTION
16:00	END OF CONFERENCE

