

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

UNISA



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Confirmed Keynote Speaker:
Prof Tony Bates: Contact North, Vancouver Canada

Hosted by the UNESCO Chair on Open Distance Learning (ODL)

Open Distance Learning Conference

Where: African Pride
Irene Country
Lodge

When: 28 – 30
August
2019

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unescochairodl



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



• UNESCO Chair on Open Distance Learning,
• UNISA, University of South Africa,
• Pretoria, South Africa

The aim of the UNESCO Chair on ODL is to bring together ODL practitioners, advanced researchers and young and emergent scholars to congregate and share ideas on critical ODL matters through presentations of plenary sessions, research papers, research posters, panel discussions and workshops. The theme of the conference, which is “Galvanizing Open Distance Learning (ODL) Research” seeks to generate debate on ODL research methodologies; ODL capacity development; trends in technology-supported teaching and research; trends in digital literacy, digital competence, and digital proficiency; massive online open courses (MOOCs); Open Educational Resources (OERs), and teaching analytics.

Click [here](#) to register.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration Open	21 June 2019
Registration Close	14 Jul 2019
Payments Due	31 Jul 2019

Consistent with the theme of the conference, “Galvanizing Open Distance Learning (ODL) Research”, the purpose of the conference is to stimulate the generation of new and creative ideas and approaches on the above-mentioned critical ODL ideas. Primarily though, the UNESCO Chair’s conference’s main objective is to get ODL practitioners to begin scholarly conversations on the above-mentioned themes with a view to encouraging production of quality research outputs in the form of papers that will be submitted to be considered for publication in high impact scholarly journals, again with the focus on young and emergent scholars getting published.

Galvanising Open Distance Learning (ODL) Research

SPEAKERS

The keynote address will be given by Professor Tony Bates of Contact North in Vancouver, Canada. Professor Bates' recent publication on ODL is *Teaching in a Digital Age: Guidelines for Designing Teaching and Learning*.

Professor Mpine Makoe, newly appointed holder of the endowed Commonwealth of Learning (CoL) Chair on Open Educational Resources (OER's), and Professor Hasina Ebrahim, who co-hosts the endowed UNESCO Chair on Early Childhood Development (ECD) co-host a panel discussion to introduce their respective chairs and share their planned research initiatives.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Date	Activities
27 th August 2019	15:00 – 18:00 Arrival and registration
28 th August 2019	08:30 – 17:00 Key note address and start of parallel sessions
29 th August 2019	08:30 – 17:00 Panel discussion by CoL Chair on OERs and UNESCO Chair on ECD's 18:00 – 21:00 Official Launch Event (Gala Dinner)
30 th August 2019	08:30 – 13:00 Final day and closure 14:00 – 16:00 Freedom Park Tour

#galvanizingodresearch

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galvanize

(verb)

shock or excite (someone) into taking action

The conference team have made *Africa Education Review* available and *Progressio: South African Journal for Open and Distance Learning Practice* for a Special Issue of selected papers from the conference.

Conference proceedings will be published for papers that will not make it into the selected Special Issue journals.

The conference fee, subsidized by the UNESCO Chair, is R1500.00.

Transport and accommodation arrangements are to be made by individuals attending the conference. Click [here](#) make bookings at the conference venue.

