SECOND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

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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Proposals are invited from academics, scholars, researchers, and emergent scholars for the inaugural UNESCO Chair on Open Distance Learning (ODL) conference at the University of South Africa (Unisa). The conference will be held on 28 - 30 August 2019, at African Pride Irene Country Lodge.

**Conference Structure**

The conference will feature the following sessions:

a) Plenary sessions at which invited speakers will give keynote addresses;

b) Full paper presentations: these will be full research papers that will be presented at scheduled parallel breakaway sessions;

c) Panel discussions: these will be 60 minute panel discussions featuring not more than four panellists who will identify topical and pertinent ODL research issues for discussion;

b) Workshops: these will be 2 hour sessions during which facilitators will identify pertinent ODL research areas in which to offer step-by-step mentoring and skills development;

c) Poster Presentation: participants can opt for a poster presentation session, where posters providing synopses of research conducted, describing the research methodologies uses, and presenting brief research findings, will be displayed.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for abstract submissions</td>
<td>30 May 2019</td>
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<td>Notification of acceptance of abstracts and feedback</td>
<td>14 Jun 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of final papers for oral presentation</td>
<td>12 Jul 2019</td>
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<td>Notification of acceptance and feedback on papers</td>
<td>02 Aug 2019</td>
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Theme and Sub-themes

The theme of the conference is “Galvanising Open Distance Learning (ODL) Research”. The following are sub-themes delegates are encouraged to consider.

- Educational research methodologies in the ODL context;
- Capacity development - mentoring young and emergent scholars;
- Researching technology-supported trends in ODL;
- Stimulating capacity for ODL research through digital literacy and digital proficiency;
- The place and role of MOOCs in ODL;
- Creating an institutional culture for researching Open Educational Resources (OERs);
- Researching learning analytics in the ODL context; and
- Writing for ODL publication – ODL journals landscape; ODL journals’ publication cycle.

Criteria for acceptance of abstract and papers

Conference participants are reminded that the focus of the UNESCO Chair conference is “ODL research”. To that end, submitted abstracts will be reviewed and evaluated based on their relevance and potential impact on the theme of the conference, and concomitantly reflect strict compliance with the above-mentioned sub-themes. Therefore key points to consider when submitting the abstract should be:

- Relevance to the conference theme and sub-themes;
- Succinct and clear thrust of the abstract and full paper;
- Clear explanation of the paper’s research paradigm and methodology;
- Clear and succinct valued added contribution of the paper to the theme of the conference;
- The paper’s capacity-building upshot, and
- Abstracts, including at least four key words, should not be more than 300 words.