



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI



Association of
Southern African Schools and
Departments of Public
Administration and Management

ASSADPAM

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of the
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCHOOLS and DEPARTMENTS of
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION and MANAGEMENT (ASSADPAM)
in conjunction with the
DISCIPLINE of PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, SCHOOL of MANAGEMENT, IT and
GOVERNANCE
at the
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL (UKZN)**

Date: 23-25 March 2022
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

CONFERENCE THEME

**DISRUPTIVE LEARNING and the FUTURE of PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
EDUCATION and RESEARCH**

Public administration education is a key determinant of the operation of public administration held by the government-of-the-day. Public Administration education in South Africa must extend beyond teaching to tangible forms of learning. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the strengths and weaknesses of public sector policies and processes. As societies have battled to contain the pandemic, the public sector has had to rely on tried and tested strategies to innovate on forging new alliances and governance processes. In doing so, the notion of professionalism is at the core of good public administration practices. Professionalism is the observance of set standards/qualities and possibly a code of conduct. It exemplifies acknowledged practices in a profession, which entails specialised knowledge acquired after extensive preparation and training academically. In this current era and the future, new challenges and opportunities emerge for us to think anew in achieving efficiency in this dynamic field.

SUB-THEME 1: Public Administration Education

Prof M Subban: subbanm@ukzn.ac.za

Prof S Mutereko: muterekos@ukzn.ac.za

Modernisation and development are significant aspects that influence the converging trends and future prospects of public administration as it identifies work on theoretical, methodological and evaluate issues deemed urgent. Public Administration education is informed by knowledge production and should not be based on knowledge reproduction (Winberg, 2006). It calls for higher education institutions to reassess public administration education, teaching methods and research for national development. The question arises: are our graduate programmes responding to the call of producing public administrators and advancing knowledge building to address practical issues, increase relevance to the field, and improve public administration education. Pedagogical challenges to improve theory and practice will enable scholars to become more proficient technically and professionally. The intention is for public administration scholarship to move towards an integrated community of scholars. In increasing competence in public administration, the curriculum must reflect both cultural and international awareness and reflect comparative perspectives more effectively. Globalization is impacting on education across different fields of study of public administration, and as a multi-disciplinary area, such education would equip public administrators with global and African perspectives to develop sustainable solutions to local and global issues. South Africa is committed to support sustainable and integrated rural development as a human-centred approach to poverty alleviation at economic, social and cultural levels including a constitutional, policy and implementation framework. The focus of this theme is as follows:

- **Internationalisation of Public Administration**
- **Interdisciplinary nature of the field**
- **Comparative Public Administration**
- **Relevance of curricula/curriculum deconstruction**
- **Service learning in the curriculum**
- **Scholarship, practice and community service**
- **Innovation and pedagogies of the future**
- **Sustainable rural development**

SUB-THEME 2: Future trends for managerial reforms – prospects for recovery and renewal post-COVID-19

Prof BC Mubangizi: mubangizib@ukzn.ac.za

Prof TI Nzimakwe: nzimakweth@ukzn.ac.za

The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted towards remote working taking eGovernment and the 4IR to another level, and the public sector endeavoured to keep systems working while ensuring social distancing. Working through networks and collaborations within the public and civic sectors was reinvigorated to reach our societies' weak and vulnerable. The volumes of work to be done in a short period necessitated greater involvement of the private sector. The ideals of post-NPM reform took on a whole new meaning, as did the New Public Governance strategies. The ASSADPAM conference comes when the world is looking forward to a world of recovery and renewal after the COVID-19 pandemic. It is appropriate to take stock of the lessons that the public sector and research fraternity have learned during this pandemic. Specifically, this theme explores the following areas:

- **eGovernment, 4IR and eGovernance**
- **Network/collaborative governance**
- **Stakeholder engagement**
- **Post-NPM reforms**
- **New Public Governance**

SUB-THEME 3: Professionalism and Integrity Management

Prof PS Reddy: [reddyp1@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:redryp1@ukzn.ac.za)

Dr SI Zondi: zondisa@ukzn.ac.za

Possessing integrity is a critical attribute of professionalism as it encourages a successful work setting/environment. Ethical standards also assist in achieving professional goals. The notion of integrity in public life is a critical factor in creating trust between governments and their citizenry. There has however been, on a global level, a growing concern that the values of integrity (truth, honesty and veracity) are declining. It seems that the notion of integrity in public life over the years has been more or less implied, as opposed to interrogating in more complexity what it entails, and furthermore, how to achieve it. The management of integrity is the prescribed framework to guarantee ethical conduct by public functionaries. This poses a series of questions namely: What is the “fitness of purpose” to govern, and public service commitment in service delivery in the broader context of democratic values, social equity and public interest; is the management value–orientated in terms of its approach to policy?; is there a crisis of trust, and is there consequences management, if it breached; and has there been agility during the COVID-19 pandemic, and has state capacity been supported? Papers in the form of local/regional/national and international case studies, as well as those focusing on theoretical appraisal is invited. This theme covers the following aspects:

- **‘Fitness for Purpose’ and public service commitment**
- **Performance-Trust link: Is it a crisis of trust?**
- **Consequence Management**
- **Public and policy-oriented approach**
- **Democratic values, social equity and advocacy of public interest**
- **Value-oriented management**
- **Agility amidst complexities during and post-COVID 19 pandemic**
- **Strengthening state capacity**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

When submitting an abstract, authors are requested to follow the proposed structure:

- Name, surname, institution, contact details
- Sub-theme
- Topic
- Purpose of envisaged paper
- Design/methodology/approach
- Practical implications
- Originality/value

ABSTRACT: 300 words

FULL PAPER: 6 000-8000 words

Follow *Administratio Publica's* format available on the website: <https://journal.assadpam.net>

IMPORTANT DATES:

Call for abstracts opens: 3 January 2022
Closing date to submit abstracts: 22 January 2022
Notification of abstract acceptance: 04 February 2022
Final papers due: 04 March 2022

Online conference registration opens: 07 February 2022

Conference registration closes: 12 March 2022

PANEL DISCUSSION

This session is to allow robust engagement with researchers, academics and senior practitioners in the field of Public Administration and Governance offering ideas and suggestions related to the thematic strand of the conference and contemporary issues in the field. A dedicated time slot will be set for the panel discussion inviting participation from some of the leading scholars in our fraternity.

EMERGING RESEARCHERS' WORKSHOP

Co-ordinators

Dr BR Qwabe: qwabeb@ukzn.ac.za

Dr SI Zondi: zondisa@ukzn.ac.za

Doctoral students are invited to share their research in a mentored workshop by submitting an abstract to the co-ordinators. A maximum of 10 papers would be considered. One or two best papers will be selected for recommendation for possible publication in the *Administratio Publica* Journal.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submission of abstracts: These can be sent directly to the relevant sub-theme chairs.

Full paper submissions: These can be sent to subbanm@ukzn.ac.za and nzimakweth@ukzn.ac.za

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

An automated mail will be sent to you regarding conference registration upon abstract acceptance.

CONFERENCE FEES:

Academic (institutional) members - R2450
Non-members - R2650
Postgraduate students (incl masters and doctoral) - R1050

We look forward to welcoming your participation in the conference!

