



25th Annual South African Psychology Congress

EMPERORS PALACE, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA,
03-06 SEPTEMBER 2019

1st Announcement

AFRICA'S IMAGINARIES, PSYCHOLOGY'S FUTURES

Africa is changing! How we collectively imagine what the nature of these changes will be and how such transitions will occur, will have a profound impact on the ways in which we imagine the potential futures of psychology as a discipline and profession.

Population growth, more porous borders, and migration will enable the promises of transnationalism like never before. Alongside this, rapid urbanization will yield megacity complexes and will change the nature of living. New possibilities for rethinking the future of work, economics, the deepening of democracies, and sustainable environments and ecologies, will emerge. Access to technology will generate unprecedented forms of connectivity and social relating. And of course, Africa will continue to break free from the dominance of Northern and Western forms of culture, identities, knowledges and ways of being in the world.

But, we are also likely to see the second scramble for Africa, raising concerns about ethical leadership, variable economic development, unemployment, socio-political conflict, xenophobia and identity politics. As Africa's population is expected to double over the next three decades, the pressures on young people in particular, will increase with mental health problems contributing most significantly to the burden of disease in Africa. Technological access will have a profound impact on the nature of learning, and on social interactions, but may also create greater forms of isolation. And we have to consider environmental decline and its impacts on society in the age of climate change.

In the context of these African imaginaries, how will psychology facilitate and resist these changes?

As PsySSA enters its 25th anniversary year, this is an important moment for psychology

as a science, practice and profession to take stock of its gains and its challenges, but more importantly, to engage in a horizon scan of its potential futures. What is psychology's relationship to technology in the cognitive neurosciences, in education, and in the world of work? What new social psychologies will be birthed to understand the complex social and political questions associated with conflict, migrations, intersectional identities, social justice movements, and so on? How will mental health interventions evolve to be attentive to the key psychosocial problems facing Africa's population, and what new modalities are being developed in psychotherapy, community psychology and within mental health systems?

With this in mind, the 25th Annual South African Psychology Congress, to be held in Johannesburg at Emperors Palace from the **3rd to the 6th of September 2019**, has as its theme, **Africa's Imaginaries, Psychology's Futures**. The Congress Committee invites submissions for the 2019 Congress that contribute to the conversation on current and future developments within psychology. The Congress Committee encourages submissions from a wide range of voices, through presentations that are scholarly and practice-oriented. We hope that the Congress will showcase how scholars, students, practitioners, researchers and policy-makers are thinking, practicing and researching in ways that reveal psychology's potential futures within our complex and collective African imaginaries.