CALL FOR PAPERS

South African Association of Public Administration and Management, in conjunction with the Tshwane University of Technology, hosts its

15th Annual Conference

Theme:
HALF-A-CENTURY OF DISCIPLINARY EXISTENCE - ANTECEDENTS, EVOLUTION, SCHOLARSHIP, TRENDS AND ISSUES

Venue:
DITSONG CULTURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (PRETORIA)
Cnr Visagie & Bosman streets

Date:
21-24 April 2015
Public administration is a function of optimizing co-existence. Its evolution into a science of managing public affairs and the pursuit to discipline it as a field of study engendered contestations. From the Wilsonian scholarship of the 19th century in the United States to Cloetenic reductionism in the 20th century in South Africa the principal unanswered question of public administration as a disciplinary pursuit is bequeathed to the 21st century. In South Africa the task of answering the question of the discipline which its progenitors failed to answer is assigned to that generation of scholarship that orthodoxy detests as it dared challenge its insipidity. The platform for the battle of ideas for this generation is the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM), which since 2011 its annual conferences have become a fecund gathering committed to transcend the epistemological foundation of the ontology of the discipline. Instead of expanding the frontiers of knowledge, orthodoxy reinvents the obvious. Its simplicity fails to grasp the complexities of the vicissitudes of the 21st century. In continuing with its scholarship of consequence SAAPAM themed its 2015 15th Annual Conference, HALF-A-CENTURY OF DISCIPLINARY EXISTENCE-ANTECEDENTS, EVOLUTION, SCHOLARSHIP, TRENDS AND ISSUES. This is to mark the 50th anniversary of the *Journal of Public Administration* and use it as an opportunity to concretize the future of the discipline, which the last conferences of SAAPAM resolved that it lies in transcending orthodoxy as inscribed in the existing body of literature. Public administration can no longer just simply be a study of systems and processes of government. It should focus on ideas that facilitate innovation and development. How to achieve this? The answer lies in multidisciplinarity. In this the trick is to maintain the core fundamentals of the discipline by enhancing its epistemological and utilitarian values with insights from the associated disciplines such as political sciences, economics, psychology, history, philosophy and sociology.

The 15th Annual Conference of SAAPAM is intended to aggregate progressive thoughts into a framework for re-theorizing the discipline, thus establishing the basis for recurruculation endeavors. The National Board of the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM), in conjunction with the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), invites you to its 15th Annual Conference, where the epistemology of the discipline would be deconstructed. This intellectual event is scheduled to take place on 21-24 April 2015 in Pretoria, Ditsong Cultural History Museum. A plenary for the practitioners is envisaged, where narratives from the practice or case study presentations on various aspects of governance related to the theme of the conference would be accommodated. Government officials are therefore as well strongly encouraged to submit papers for presentations based on their experiential insight in managing the dynamics of governance. Original papers on the theme of the conference which seeks to inform theoretical and policy discourses on matters of governance are hereby invited for presentation and possible publication in the *Journal of Public Administration*. The following sub-themes were formulated to contextualise the theme of the conference.
### TRACK 1
**Epistemology and ontology**

**Etymological and ontological questions of the discipline**
- What is the epistemological foundation of the ontology of the discipline?
- Are existing paradigms used to theorise and historicise the discipline relevant in the 21st century? If not, what are the alternative theoretical and historical paradigms?
- What is their potential in resolving the unresolved theoretical question of the discipline? What about African indigenous knowledge systems? Do they matter in the pursuit to answer the unanswered theoretical question of the discipline? If so, why are African philosophies not mainstreamed in the epistemological praxis of the discipline? Is the discipline trapped in orthodoxy? What would it take to extricate it from what Ali Mazrui calls “alien paradigms”, or, as Karl Marx put it, “false systems of political, social and moral concepts invented” to preserve the hegemony of the global power? Is post-modernism an answer to the epistemological question of the discipline?

### TRACK 2
**Empirical and policy questions**

**The democratisation path traversed - What is the state of the post-1994 South African state?**
- How far did we come in organising our system of governance and improving policy practice?
- What is the strategic orientation of our policy praxis? To what extent is that orientation reflective of the attempt to position South Africa as a capable state? What necessitated a shift from a developmental state to a capable state in the policy discourse in South Africa? Or perhaps these notions presuppose sameness? Are they, really? Did the National Planning Commission (NPC) correctly diagnose the governance challenges facing South Africa? Or is it the question of misdiagnosis?
- What is the implication of the National Development Plan (NDP) on the evolution of the South African state, two decades into democracy? How is South Africa reacting to the proposals of the NDP? How does the NDP differ from previous interventions to enhance the development capacity of the South African state?

### TRACK 3
**Narratives from the practice**

**Governance in praxis**
- Meaning of governance in the day-to-day activities of government
### Conceptual questions
What is the conceptual basis of the discipline, in terms of its relevance and appropriateness in the historicisation and theorisation of the discipline?

### Corporative governance in the public sector
Leadership and human resource management, financial management

### Case study
Presentations on service delivery milestones and challenges

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### New Public Management, Governance, transformation and administrative reform
To what extent do the New Public Management and governance provide conceptual paradigms for theorising transformation and administrative reform in South Africa, post-1994?

What about the notion of a developmental state? Can it be regarded as the subtext of transformation and administrative reform?

### Planning for better governance
Is the organisational architecture of the government geared towards enhancing the capacity of the state to plan in manner that sustains coherence in the system of government?

### Planning for better governance
The case of the National Development Plan

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### African scholarship in the 21st century- the case of public administration
Are we pursuing ghosts that are not ours in historicising and theorising our reality? Or perhaps a question that should first be asked is whether African public administration scholarship exists? If so, to what end? What is its influence on the epistemological orientation of the discipline?

### Tools of governance
What are tools that we can use to measure our state of governance?

How were those tools developed?
### Decoloniality and Public Administration

What does the concept decoloniality mean? Is it related to Eurocentrism? How does it differ from modernity? What is its implication on the epistemological foundation of the discipline?

### Ethical governance

To what extent are succeeding or falling in inculcating the culture of ethics?

What is the level of performance of the institutions that have been established to promote ethical governance and democracy in South Africa?

What is level of corruption in the public sector?

### Future of the Discipline

Where does the future of the discipline lie? In multidisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity, or transdisciplinarity? How are these concepts related? How do they differ?

### Co-operative and network governance

National-Provincial-Local Government nexus in the governance chain. Is the chain holding?

Government-civil society interface

Inter-government relations system as prescribed in the Constitution: Does it really work, especially from government planning perspective?

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These questions necessarily seek to influence re-curriculation efforts. This is so because what is taught at our universities is often criticised as not being consistent with the changing society. In attending to this important observation we envisage to have, in a plenary, dialogue on the State of Public Administration Discipline in terms of teaching and research as part of the programme of the Conference. The purpose is to establish a national consensus on what should constitute the public administration curricula. This is a continuation of previous efforts to develop a coherent framework for curriculum development in the field of governance.

Abstracts of between 250-350 words should be submitted on or before **30 January 2015**. In the cover page of the abstract the following information need to be specified:

(a) Title of Submission  
(b) Conference sub-theme  
(c) Name of author (s)  
(d) Institutional affiliation of author (s)  
(e) Address(es) of author (s)  
(f) E-mail address (es) of author (s)
Papers submitted for possible publication in the conference proceedings of the Journal should strictly adhere to the editorial policy requirements regarding specifications for manuscript submissions. The submission date for full papers is the **28 February 2015**. In keeping with item 3 of the Editorial Policy of the *Journal of Public Administration*, all papers submitted by the due date shall be circulated anonymously to specialist referees for evaluation. It is only on the basis of the referees’ reports that the Editor may either accept or reject any paper submitted for publication in the conference proceedings of the *Journal*. Except in special cases where prior permission has been obtained, papers should not exceed 5000 words. Prospective contributors are specifically requested to ensure that the language and technical aspects of their contributions are of high standard. In this regard, proof to this effect would be required. Papers should be submitted electronically; typed in 1.5 line spacing, 12pt Times New Roman and accompanied by an English abstract of between 250 and 350 words. Since papers are circulated anonymously for evaluation, the name and affiliation of the author(s) should be on a separate page. Only the Harvard style will be accepted for references. Abstracts and full papers should be emailed to SAAPAM@tut.ac.za. By submitting a paper, you certify that all co-authors are aware of the submission and consent to presentation of the work. All submission must be in Microsoft word. Include the contact information for all authors on the first page of the document.

**Benefits of attending the conference**
The conference provides an access to the formal communication network with SAAPAM members, and ample opportunity for networking and building bonds between practitioners, academics, researchers and other professionals in the discipline of Public Administration and Management.

**Important dates (must be received at our office by)**
- Submission of abstracts: **30 January 2015**
- Notification of acceptance/ non-acceptance: **07 February 2015**
- Submission of full papers: **28 February 2015**
- Final payment for registration: **15 March 2015**
- Late payment for registration: **31 March 2015**
- Event dates: **21-24 April 2015**

**Presentation Equipment**
Each conference room will be equipped with a computer and LCD projector. The presentation rooms will not be equipped with an internet connection.

**How to register**
Complete the attached Registration Form; scan and email it for the attention of the, SAAPAM Administrator at SAAPAM@tut.ac.za. Please remember to attach proof of payment.

**Conference Fees**
**Deadline: 15 March 2015**
Conference registration fees are not refundable or transferable. Conference registration fees of R4000-00 per delegate (Members)/R4500-00 (non-members) are payable. Please note that this amount does not include accommodation. The booking and payment of accommodation is the (separate) responsibility of the delegate. Details about nearby guest houses and hotels are attached. Please note that this is a
prepaid event. Payment and registration is required by 15 March 2015. Payments can be made to the following Bank Account:

Name of the Bank : Standard Bank  
Account Holder : SAAPAM  
Account Number : 012580015  
Branch Code : 01-15-45-15

EXCURSIONS
There will be a tour of the following places of interest on Thursday, 23 April 2015 from 14h00 – 17h00:

- Ditsong Museum
- Transvaal Museum
- Freedom Park
- Union Buildings

Transport will be available to pick guests to and from their hotels and guest houses.

GALA DINNER
Gala dinner will be held on Thursday, 23 April 2015 at 18h00.

ACCOMMODATION (NEARER THE CONFERENCE VENUE)
Hotels in Pretoria

Hotel 224
Directions
Address: Schoeman St, Pretoria, 0007  
Phone: 012 440 5281

Morning Star Express Hotel
Directions
Address: 327 Visagie St, Pretoria, 0001  
Phone: 012 442 0600

Goodeys Guest House B&B
Directions Address: 23 Amos St, Pretoria, 0083  
Phone: 012 342 9524

Victoria Hotel - Pretoria Central
Directions
Address: Paul Kruger Rd, Pretoria, 0002  
Phone: 012 323 6054

Illyria House
Directions
Address: 327 Bourke St, Pretoria, 0002  
Phone: 012 344 5193
SBH Hotel-Pretoria
Directions
Address: 29 Beuke Pl, Lynnwood/Pretoria, 1084

Southern Sun Pretoria
Directions
Address: Cnr. Beatrix and Church Streets, Pretoria 0083, South Africa

Courtyard Hotel Arcadia
Directions
Address: Corner Park & Hill Streets | Arcadia, Pretoria 0007, South Africa

Court Classique Suite Hotel
Directions
Address: 743 Francis Baard Street(Schoeman Street) (cnr Beckett) | Arcadia, Pretoria 7, South Africa

Premier Hotel Pretoria
Directions
Address: 573 Stanza Bopape Street (Church Street) | Arcadia, Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Holiday Inn Express Pretoria-Sunnypark
Directions
Address: C/O Jeppe and Trevenna | Sunnyside, Pretoria 136, South Africa

Protea Hotel Manor
Directions
Address: Corner of Burnett and Festival Streets | Hatfield, Pretoria 0083, South Africa (Formerly Hatfield Manor Hotel)
Registration Form

DELEGATE DETAILS
TITLE: _____________________________________________________________
FULL NAMES: ______________________________________________________
SURNAME: _________________________________________________________
ORGANISATION: ___________________________________________________
DEPARTMENT: ______________________________________________________
JOB TITLE: _________________________________________________________

CONTACT DETAILS
TEL: _______________________________________________________________
CELL: ______________________________________________________________
E-MAIL: ____________________________________________________________
FULL POSTAL ADDRESS: ______________________________________________
CITY: ______________________________________________________________
COUNTRY: __________________________________________________________

DISABILITY ACCESS
My requirements are: _________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

SPECIAL REQUESTS
Dietary requirements
Vegetarian □  Halaal □  Diabetic □  Other: ________________________________

PLEASE QUOTE DELEGATE’S FULL NAME WITH PAYMENT
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