



Population Association of Southern Africa Conference
Conference Theme: “Sustainable Development for the Future”.
07th - 11th July 2025
Gauteng, South Africa
Conference Venue (TBC)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Population Association of Southern Africa (PASA) has historically hosted a yearly conference to provide a platform to emerging and established researchers, programme and advocacy specialists to showcase their work and contribute to the landscape of research and innovation in the field population and demography. The PASA conference is held annually however due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was last held in 2019 at the University of Venda (Univen).

We are excited to announce that planning for the 2025 PASA Conference is underway. The conference will be jointly organised by PASA, the Department of Social Development (DSD), Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), and possibly a hosting university (if the venue is at a university).

The theme of the conference is “**Sustainable development for the future.**” The 2025 conference theme aims to ensure sustainable development becomes integral to research going forward, as it is the key to future prosperity. With the Sustainable Development Goals (SGD) deadline fast approaching, it becomes necessary to revisit the intrinsic value and importance of this fundamental plan to ensure the future of the globe and particularly developing countries. Also, having had numerous setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, realigning our research focus to this area becomes crucial.

Call for Abstracts: Population Association of Southern Africa Conference – 2025

The conference coincides with World Population Day (WPD) on 11 July 2025. The 2025 WPD theme is “**To advance gender equality and uplift the voices of women and girls**”. A special session on 11 July 2025 will be convened to commemorate WPD 2025.

The conference's thematic areas will span historically classical areas that are popular in demography and population studies, whilst also including emerging and more current thematic areas in alignment with the conference theme. It is hoped that through this collection of professionals from various spheres, a successful pathway will be charted to ensure sustainable development's reality in Africa.

PASA advocates for an inclusive approach to data and planning to understand population issues facing the Southern African region and the rest of the globe. Hence, papers which consider different age cohorts, persons with disabilities, gender, LGBTQI+ populations and other vulnerable and at-risk groups are encouraged to be submitted for the conference programme.

The following thematic areas will be featured in the conference. Please refer to **Annexure A: Thematic Area Descriptions** for the general focus of each thematic area.

1. Health, Morbidity and Mortality
2. Migration and Urbanisation
3. Inclusive Data and New Methodologies for Planning and Policy
4. Education and Development
5. Gender Based Violence and Femicide.
6. Children and Young People
7. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
8. Sexual and Reproductive Justice
9. Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management in Humanitarian contexts
10. Population and Development
11. Technology and Artificial Intelligence in Population Studies and Demography
12. Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment

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Submission Guidelines

Authors are requested to submit abstracts and expressions of interest as follows:

- All abstracts, papers, and poster presentations should be submitted in electronic format, preferably in MS Word, before the stipulated deadline.
- Authors must clearly specify the thematic area to which they are submitting their abstracts, papers and posters.
- If you wish to have your abstract, paper or poster considered for two thematic areas, you must indicate your first and second choices.
- Abstract (Maximum 300 words – excluding author details)
- Five keywords per abstract
- Arial font, font size 11, 1.5 line spacing
- Authors and co-authors must submit:
 - Full name
 - Title
 - Preferred gender pronoun
 - Organisation/ affiliation
 - Professional capacity
 - Email address
 - Mobile number
 - Biography for presenting author (Maximum 100 words)
 - Indicate who the corresponding author is on the submission. The Scientific Committee will communicate exclusively with the corresponding author.
- Abstracts will be subjected to a single-anonymous review process.
- If accepted, authors will be informed of the timeline to submit the full paper, MS PowerPoint presentation and poster.

Submission Deadline and Correspondence

- All abstracts, papers, and posters must be submitted electronically by **Wednesday, 9th May 2025 by 17:00.**
- Please send your abstracts to:
 - pasapapers@gmail.com
 - Dr Nompumelelo Nzimande: Nzimanden@ukzn.ac.za
 - Dr Enock Ngome: enock.ngome@gmail.com
 - Mr Jabulani Msomi: jabulanim@dsd.gov.za

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Important Dates

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: **9th May 2025**
- Notice of accepted abstracts: **30th May 2025**
- Deadline for submission of full papers: **20th June 2025**
- Pre - Conference Workshop: **7th and 8th July 2025**
- Main PASA Conference: **9th to 11th July 2025**
- World Population Day: **11th July 2025**

If you reside outside South Africa and would like to attend the PASA Conference, please visit <https://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/applying-for-sa-visa> for information on applying for a South African visa.

For more information on the conference please contact:

Ms Pheya Mabote (PASA President) – pheyam@dsd.gov.za

Dr E Ngome (PASA Secretary) – Enock.ngome@gmail.com

Mr Jabulani Msomi – jabulanim@dsd.gov.za

We look forward to receiving your submission.

Annexure A: Thematic Area Descriptions

<p>1.</p>	<p>Health, Morbidity and Mortality</p> <p>The thematic area tracks work that covers health profiles, health conditions and deaths related to those and other conditions. It considers the demographic consequences and how contextual factors impact policy, programme, interventions, impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, resource allocation, implications for the SDGs as well as future areas of research.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Migration and Urbanisation</p> <p>This thematic area aims to discuss the factors driving migration and urbanisation trends in Southern Africa. In so doing, this theme cast furthers attention on the complex social, political and economic challenges mobile populations experience. Importantly, issues discussed in this theme could point to how the realisation of the relevant SDG Goals are impacted on by mobile populations and what this could mean for future development prospects in the Southern African region.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Inclusive Data and New Methodologies for Planning and Policy</p> <p>Data is central to demography and population studies. Data must be made available to decision-makers, planners, civil society organizations, businesses and citizens helps to shape policies, direct actions, advise on development options, and permit governments to be held to accountable, in a way that truly reflects the population needs. More recently, inclusive data has been widely advocated, especially within the SDG framework. This theme explores how the collection and analysis of inclusive data gives an account of all people and groups, regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, and location etcetera. The theme also highlights the use of innovative methodologies and tools which can supplement established methods to shed new light from a demographic and population studies perspective.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Education and Development</p> <p>Education is a human right and a powerful driver of development. Education as one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty, improving health, gender equality, peace, and stability is well-documented however gaps remain. This thematic area examines trends and nuances present in the multiple education settings (i.e. early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational) and the implications thereof for development, especially in terms of equity and inclusion.</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>Gender-Based Violence and Femicide</p> <p>Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide represent serious challenges reflecting significant barriers to protecting young girls and women’s human rights. Beyond GBV, the issue becomes more complex when the result is femicide. This thematic area aims to complement existing understandings of the multiple factors contributing to GBV and femicide. In so do, it is also dedicated to grasping the manifestations of systemic injustice within society. In addition, the theme also seeks to highlight what more is required to strengthen law-enforcement, legal, health and social safeguards to provide holistic protection for all, but especially so for young girls and women.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Children and Young People</p> <p>Children and young people are a crucial demographic group. In general, they form a significant portion of the global population, especially in developing countries. Their trends have implications for economic growth, labour force participation, social welfare, educational and healthcare services and resource allocation amongst others. This thematic area explores the concept of the demographic dividend and what can be expected in the future It also reflects on the respective SDG goals that focus on children and young people.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights</p> <p>Sexual and reproductive health focuses on healthcare, services, information, as well as research and health data. The goal is to improve and expand services, research, and access, particularly in prevention and provide competent care for all. Reproductive rights serve to protect an individual’s legal right to reproductive health care services. This thematic area focuses on developments in advancing the agenda of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the Southern African region. Research and documented interventions could share light the current status quo, opportunities and importantly underscore the gaps and gains reversed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Examining progress on SRHR related SDG goals could also provide insight into the future trajectory for the region in terms of ensuring universal health coverage. improved health outcomes, gender equality and wider development.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Sexual and Reproductive Justice</p> <p>Reproductive rights are meaningless if a person cannot access the services that right has provided. Hence, Sexual and reproductive justice (SRJ) links reproductive rights with the social, political, and economic inequalities that affect an individual’s ability to</p>

	<p>access reproductive health care services. The SRJ thematic area brings to light how reproductive oppression is the result of the intersections of multiple oppressions and is inherently connected to the struggle for social justice and human rights. In other words, an individual’s societal institutions, environment, economics, and culture affect the path of their reproductive life. It is hoped that through the introduction of this thematic area at the 2025 PASA Conference, SRJ gains wider traction as an important field of study within demography and population studies.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management in Humanitarian Contexts</p> <p>Parts of the Southern African region already experiencing water scarcity. Increased drying, warming and extreme weather events will make this worse. Water scarcity (and in some cases water related disasters such as floods) have direct and indirect implications for food security, health and mobility of people, which in turn have implications for conflict potential. The past and current experience of climate stress in southern Africa is unlikely to change drastically soon.</p> <p>Like most countries around the world, countries in Southern Africa could not escape the COVID-19 pandemic. It suffered the loss of lives and livelihoods. Evidence from past epidemics and disasters showed how healthcare resources are often diverted. The COVID-19 pandemic created significant pressure within the public and private health care where health care provision for older persons, chronically ill, pregnant women, newborn and children was further compromised. COVID-19 underscored the multiple gaps in economic preparedness and resilience, health care, social protection and overall welfare of all but especially so for children, youth and older persons.</p> <p>This thematic area of the conference explores evidence on the nexus between environment, climate change and disaster management to understand their impact on people (often the most vulnerable) and communities to guide meaningful action.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Population and Development</p> <p>This theme has a wider focus on population and development in the Southern Africa region. It aims to explore the importance of demographic trends and population dynamics in development plans, and advocates for evidence-based policies and interventions that are considered demographic trends and population dynamics.</p>

11.	Technology and Artificial Intelligence in Population Studies and Demography Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a novel and powerful approach in analysing population issues and as such has gained the attention of demographers. Its application in analysing population data, predicting population trends, and understanding the dynamics of population, provides new opportunities for population researchers. The usefulness and possible pitfalls of AI in population studies and demography in the Southern African region are explored in this theme.
12.	Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment Regarded as a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world, gender equality, equity and empowerment involve ensuring equal rights, opportunities, and access to resources for all genders, promoting self-worth, and enabling people to make choices and influence decisions that affect their lives. Much of the SDG framework is dedicated to creating this ideal however gender inequality persists and stagnates social progress. A discussion on progress, challenges and are set to be discussed in this thematic area.