



CALL FOR PAPERS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

***Department of Transformation and Leadership
and Archie Mafeje Research Institute***

THEME Can There Be a Decolonised University Within an Undecolonised State?
VENUE Pretoria, South Africa
DATE 25 – 27 March 2020

The struggles for transformed universities in South Africa in particular, and the modern world in general, throw into the public space the question of complex state-university relations as well as that of university-society connections. Reflecting on this matter, Ali A. Mazrui posited that the university has to distance itself from the state, while building close relations with society and the wider world of knowledge. However, today there is increasing talk about the Quadruple Helix, which emphasizes bringing the state, the university, business, and civil society together and drive toward the common goal of development. Beyond the neoliberal Washington Consensus and its prescriptions of structural adjustment programmes in the 1980s and 1990s, -- emphasizing the downsizing of the state -- there are increasing demands for state support in universities. Taken together, these developments have brought back to the fore the question of the relations between the state and universities. This becomes an urgent question in a context like South Africa where, building on the promise by the liberation movements to open the doors of learning to all, the Rhodes Must Fall and Fees Must Fall Movements demanded free-fee education. This opening of the doors of learning to all envisages a state that takes education as a priority sector allocating adequate resources to make education a public good rather than a commodity accessible to those who are financially privileged. However, besides the opening of the doors of learning, there is also a clear demand for decolonised universities within the context of states which have embraced neoliberal orthodoxies of privatisation and the rule of market forces.

It is within this context that the question of the possibility of a decolonised university within a neoliberal undecolonized state arises. This is an important aspect of the ongoing struggles for decolonised universities that have to be subjected to open scholarly interrogation from various vantage points that include the following:

1. Cold War coloniality and its impact on education
2. Neoliberalism, the Washington Consensus and state-university relations in Africa
3. The fate of the public university under structural adjustment programmes
4. The higher education crisis in Africa
5. Corporatization of knowledge
6. Managerialism and entrepreneurial universities
7. The rise and relevance of universities of technology
8. Ministries of education and universities
9. Quality assurance bodies and higher education
10. Decolonisation, disciplinary organisation of knowledge and certification
11. The Quadruple Helix and implications for higher education
12. Higher education funding, academic freedom and university autonomy
13. Higher education as a public good
14. The invasion of market coloniality
15. Decolonising the state and implications for education
16. Rhodes must fall, Fees must fall and Outsourcing must fall.

The conference organisers will produce an edited volume with Unisa Press or any other reputable publisher after the conference. Presenters who wish to be included in this volume must submit full manuscripts of no more than 8000 words including references, using the Harvard Referencing Style.

IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| ➤ Due date for abstracts: | 31 October 2019 |
| ➤ Conference Registration fees for Presenters: | R3 500.00, due date 30 November 2019 |
| ➤ Conference Registration Fees for students: | R1 500.00, due date 30 November 2019 |
| ➤ Manuscript Submission: | 30 January 2020 |

ABSTRACTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

- **hlongbk@unisa.ac.za** (Ms Badumisile Hlongwane)