defsa
Design Education Forum of Southern Africa

14th National Design Education Conference 2017
Hosted by Tshwane University of Technology & Inscape Education Group

27 — 29 September 2017
Freedom Park, City of Tshwane

#Decolonise!

Design educators reflecting on the call for the decolonisation of education

The year two thousand and sixteen will be noted in the annals of history as a watershed year in South African Higher Education. The calls by South African students for decolonised education have been emphatically professed, loud and clear. As design educators, we need to interrogate our role in decolonising design education.

James Wang uses Aristotle's theories of "reason, imagination, and practical intellect" when he writes on "The Importance of Aristotle to Design Thinking" (2013:4). He distinguishes between makers and doers. Makers are concerned with making excellent products while doers are concerned with justice, public values and social issues. Wang claims that designers, with a predisposition as makers, thus have a deficiency in getting involved with real, pertinent social issues. Wang's argument is based on the theories of one of the founders of Western academe, a trend that is pertinent in many papers delivered at past DEFSA conferences. In contrast to Wang's distinction between "makers" and "doers", Buchanan states that "the quality of design is distinguished not merely by technical skill of execution or by aesthetic vision but by the moral and intellectual purpose toward which technical and artistic skill is directed" (2001:37).

With the 2017 #Decolonise! Conference design educators are provided with the opportunity to reflect on, and critically interrogate the notion of Decolonisation in relation to design education with the aim of transforming existing practices. Asking questions on who, what, where, when and how? Examples of questions which require our urgent attention include: What is our understanding of the call for decolonised education? How do our curricula and pedagogical approaches stand up to this call? What values, assumptions and truths underlie our discipline? To what extent do we incorporate the context and knowledge of the South, and more specifically of Africa into our discipline? How do we bring practitioners of design into the conversation? How are we contributing textbooks and learning resources to this project? What do our students have to say on these issues?

Through a strategic partnership with Freedom Park, and its Department of Heritage and Knowledge, DEFSA will be hosting its 14th national conference to engage with the theme of Decolonising Design Education. The Design Education Forum of Southern Africa invites all role-players in design to submit academic papers that will contribute to this discourse.

Buchanan, R. 2001. Human Dignity and Human Rights: Thoughts on the Principles of Human-Centered Design. Design Issues 17(3): 35-39.
Wang, J. 2013. The Importance of Aristotle to Design Thinking. Design Issues 29(2): 4-15.

To decolonise the tradition of academic conferences, the sub-themes of this conference will be 'generated' by the trends identified in the submissions received taking cognisance of the who, what, where, when and how approach while taking into account the contexts of the author in design education.

DATE

27-28 September 2017
Freedom Park, City of Tshwane

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Renowned educator, researcher and writer, Prof George Sefa Dei, will be the keynote speaker.

NEW EDUCATIONAL FUTURITIES FOR AFRICA

Asked for his views on the 2017 DEFSA conference, Prof Dei said: "Decolonisation is an important concept. It is also about moving into practice. If pursued diligently, we can witness the birth of new educational futurities for Africa and the global community."

He added that the conference promises to engage the cutting edge scholarship on the topic, fleshing out the tensions, limitations and possibilities of decoloniality as it implicates design education in Africa and other international comparative contexts. "The invited thematic sessions and selected topics are very comprehensive. Together, they will offer an enviable intellectual opportunity for educators to assembly and to convene a critical dialogue on the depth of decolonial education by responding to questions of relevance, application and pragmatics of education," he indicated.

"Given the growing uncertainties in our world today, particularly, how imperial powers are seeking to redefine their responsibilities to the global community, this conference can be an important space to think through and act on the different and viable options for new educational futures. The promotion of multiple knowledges and epistemes as oppositional discourses will be essential to uncovering the new possibilities to education," he concluded.

FOREMOST ACADEMIC

Prof Dei is considered by many as one of Canada's foremost scholars on race and anti-racism studies. He is a widely sought after academic, researcher and community worker, whose professional and academic work has led to many Canadian and international speaking invitations in the US, Europe and Africa.

Currently, he is Professor of Social Justice Education and Director of the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Professor Dei is the 2015 and 2016 Carnegie African Diasporan Fellow. In August 2012, he received the honorary title of Professor Extraordinaire from the School of Education, University of South Africa (Unisa).

He received the 2016 Whitworth Award for Educational Research from the Canadian Education Association (CEA), awarded to the Canadian scholar whose research and scholarship have helped shape Canadian national educational policy and practice.

In June 2007, Professor Dei was installed as a traditional chief in Ghana, specifically, as the Gyaasehene of the town of Asokore, Koforidua in the New Juaben Traditional Area of Ghana. His traditional stool name is Nana Adusei Sefa Tweneboah I.
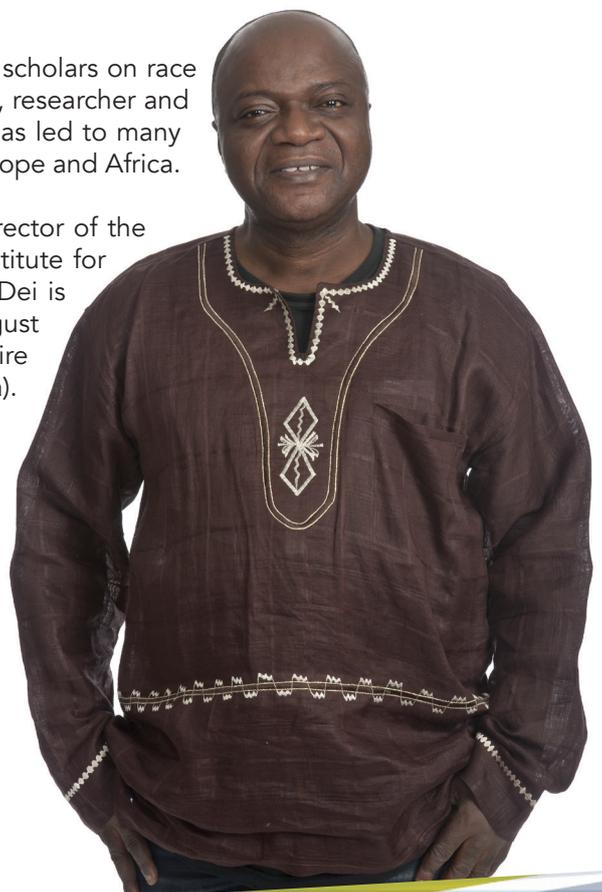
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FEES

- R2 000 early bird rate for registration before 31 July 2017
- R2 500 for registration after 1 August 2017
- R1 500 full-time students (Excluding staff)
- R600 gala evening 27 September.
  Venue: the //hapo interpretative centre, Freedom Park. Named in Khoi for the word "dream", the //hapo interpretative centre tells the story of Africa, and of South Africa specifically, in seven parts. Each part is a distinct element in the evolution of the great continent.

WORKSHOP

Don't miss the workshop on Friday 29 September.
The theme of the workshop will be announced in due course.
Workshop costs: Academics: R1100, Students: R650

#Decolonise!

Submission of Abstract

The Abstract submission deadline for the first call for papers is on or before **4 April 2017**. Your abstract must be no more than 300-500 words. The abstract should be a concise statement of the problem, approach, and conclusions of the work described. It should clearly state the paper's contribution to the field. Typically, three to five Keywords should be taken from your submission.

Full Paper Assessment Criteria

The assessment of final papers is considerably more stringent than for an abstract. Your final paper will be assessed based on a wide range of criteria including the following:

- Does the paper address the conference theme?
- Is the paper academically sound?
- Does the paper contribute to the field of design education?
- Does the paper title reflect its content?
- Is the structure of the paper clear and logical?
- Are the problems, methodology and claims or conclusions clear?
- Does the paper include sufficient relevant related theory and is such knowledge clearly portrayed and correctly cited?
- Are parts of the paper weak or lacking, and how could these be improved?
- Are illustrations or diagrams relevant and correctly captioned, and do they contribute to the understanding of the material?
- Does the paper adhere to the style guidelines including footnotes, referencing, removal of personal references, headings and subheadings, keywords, etc.?
- Is the paper professionally presented: no grammatical or typographical errors, shoddy or poorly chosen wording, incorrect use of terms or other quality issues?

Page Size

Material on each A4 page should be justified, with a 2.54 cm margin right around. It is important to check these margins even if you use this Word template because they might have been overwritten by your local settings.

Important

To be able to see the links to submit a paper, review a paper or see your papers and reviews, you need to REGISTER and LOG IN to the DEFSA website (www.defsa.co.za).

Usernames and passwords are case-sensitive. Please note that your paper is being submitted for blind peer review. All references to the author in the body of the paper should be removed before submission. It is critical that your paper addresses the conference theme.

Acceptance of your abstract is not a guarantee that your paper will also be accepted. If your evaluation showed "needs clarification" in any aspect, please make sure that clarification is provided in your final abstract and paper.
If your evaluation showed "not acceptable" in any aspect, you might need to adjust your research topic and methodology to produce an acceptable paper.

Page numbering, headers and footers

Do NOT include headers, footers or page numbers in your submission. These will be added when the publication is assembled.

Formatted Text

Please use the template provided. Word styles have been provided to save you time and effort, and ensure consistency.

- Paragraphs: justified (left and right), 13pt spacing, 6pt above and below paragraphs.
- Normal text: Please use 11-point Calibri font.
- Abstract and keywords: italicised.

Section Headings

The headings of sections (or Heading 3) should be in Calibri 14-pt (not bold) using sentence case, i.e. only the initial letters of the first words and proper names capitalised.

Subsections (or Heading 4 on the template)
The headings of subsections should be in Calibri 11-pt bold using sentence case

Sub-subsections
The heading for sub-subsections should be in Calibri 11-pt bold, italic with initial letters capitalised

Figures/Captions

Figures and tables should be inserted at the appropriate point in your text. Each figure should have a figure caption in Calibri 10 point bold font. They should be numbered (e.g., "Table 1" or "Figure 2"), centred and placed beneath the figure or table. Please note that the words "Figure" or "Table" should be spelt out (e.g., "Figure" rather than "Fig.").

Please note that the papers will be printed in black and white. Therefore you should supply the final file with black and white graphics only. You may use coloured figures for the sake of the version on the Web, as long as they translate well into gray-scale.

References

The abbreviated Harvard system of citation should be used. References should be published materials accessible to the public. Internal technical reports may be cited only if they are easily accessible (i.e. you give an Internet address within your citation). Proprietary information may not be cited.
http://www.usq.edu.au/library/referencing/harvard-agps-referencing-guide

Language, style and content

Please make sure that your paper is in clear, readable English. With regard to spelling and punctuation, you may use any dialect of English (e.g., British, Canadian or US), provided this is done consistently. Hyphenation is optional.

To ensure suitability for the international audience of our conference, please pay attention to the following:

- Use simple sentence structure and common vocabulary. Avoid long sentences and complex sentence structures. Use semicolons and punctuation correctly.
- Briefly, define or explain all technical terms.
- Explain acronyms the first time they are used in your text, thereafter they may appear as acronyms e.g. South Africa (SA), thereafter SA.
- Clarify local references.
- Use unambiguous forms for culturally-localized concepts, such as times, dates, currencies and numbers (e.g., "1-5-99" or "5/1/99" may mean January 5th or May 1st.
- Try to minimise the use of gender-specific pronouns (he, she) and other gendered words (chairman, manpower). Use gender-neutral language or try to structure sentences so that gender-specific pronouns are avoided.

Total Word Length

Full papers should be no longer than 5,000 words, including title and references. Longer papers will not be included in the Research Proceedings.

File Name

For your paper to be accepted it must be formatted as a Microsoft Word file (.docx or .doc), of 5Mb or less, including diagrams (if any).

Your file must be named using the same style as your abstract was returned to you to make sure it is easy to identify i.e. Abstractno_keyword.docx

To avoid upload problems and make sure that your abstract, please ensure that there are no spaces or punctuation in the filename, and that there are 40 or less characters before the .'docx'.

Conclusion

It is important that you write for a general audience. This guideline is intended to help you achieve a professional presentation. By adhering to the guideline, you ensure that your paper is shown in the conference proceedings exactly as you intended. You also reduce wasted time and effort of rework and ensure an impressive presentation of all conference papers.

We thank you for your cooperation and look forward to receiving your "print-ready" paper.

Acknowledgements

We thank all authors, committee members, and volunteers for their hard work and contributions in providing guidelines, reviewing abstracts and papers, preparing the official proceedings and assisting with numerous tasks to ensure a professional and informative event.