

## EASA JULY –DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER



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## 1. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

*Prof Mehabo Dinah Magano UNISA (Department of Psychology of Education)*



The year 2016 has been a dynamic year characterized by a number of events in the country which challenged the usual way of doing business. The educational landscape was challenged from lower levels to tertiary institutions, culminating with unrests in Limpopo where Vuwani schools were gutted down and the #FeesmustFall in Higher Education. The events call for transformation in education which necessitates stakeholders to question their practices. Researchers as stakeholders are also challenged on whether their research is relevant and predictive of the possible challenges facing the educational landscape in the country.

EASA 2017 conference theme is an attempt to interrogate our role as academics in an educational landscape. The theme “Inspired By The Dome: Optimising the impact of our research, teaching and community engagement to facilitate change towards a functional and harmonious, diverse South African educational landscape” is indeed an appropriate and well thought theme for times such as these. This theme which emanates from the geographical narrative of the meteorite that hit the Vaal area near Parys and subsequently affected the landscape causing the grassland to coexist with the bushveld, is indeed a metaphor for the state of education in South Africa. The #Feesmustfall wave which hit the country will result in a unique situation where higher education is accessed by all regardless of their socio economic background. In the wake of this newly defined paradigm EASAn’s must be determined to make a meaningful contribution towards the advancement of policy and advancement of practice in education.

The keynote addresses for the conference were carefully selected so that conference delegates can have critical and fruitful engagements during presentations. All key note speakers are scholars of prolific standing in academia who are respected globally due to their scholarly contributions. Apart from presentations the executive committee has also resuscitated interest groups which will be an ongoing collaboration of academics for various disciplines throughout the year. The sessions at EASA conference will be the beginning of conversations which will be sustained throughout the year leading to the subsequent conference. The executive committee thought that this will create a platform for continuous discourse amongst EASAn’s. In addition panel discussions during the conference will enable active participation of scholars on the theme of the conference.

Following the EASA January 2017 conference, it is anticipated that EASAn’s will submit articles in our South African Journal of Education for publication. The journal is doing well with an impact factor of 0.560. We also welcome new members of EASA and postgraduate students who attend our annual conference and present papers. Of importance is to indicate that all delegates who attend the

conference remain to be members of EASA for the entire year. Finally we congratulate the awards recipients nominated by EASA members for the medal of honour, emerging researcher and postgraduate medal! Let me congratulate Dr Ruth Motlalepule Mampane who will be the chairperson of EASA for 2017, a word of appreciation is also extended to Dr Dipane Hlalele who was an outgoing chairperson for the current year. We welcome the incoming chairperson Prof Johnnie Hay.

EASA Chairperson 2016

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE 2017 EASA CONFERENCE: 8-11 JANUARY 2017

The 2017 Annual Conference of the Education Association of South Africa (EASA) is hosted by the Faculty of Education Sciences, North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus. The venue for the conferences is the historical and world heritage site, Khaya iBhubesi near Parys on the Vaal River, South Africa. The overarching theme of the conference is:

*#InspiredByTheDome: Optimising the impact of our research, teaching and community engagement to facilitate change towards a functional and harmonious, diverse South African education(al) landscape.*

The background message behind the ‘#InspiredByTheDome’ overarching theme of the conference is operationalised to the educational # theme of 2015 - 2016 and possibly beyond and aligned to the chosen venue as clearly conceptualised by the organising committee below.

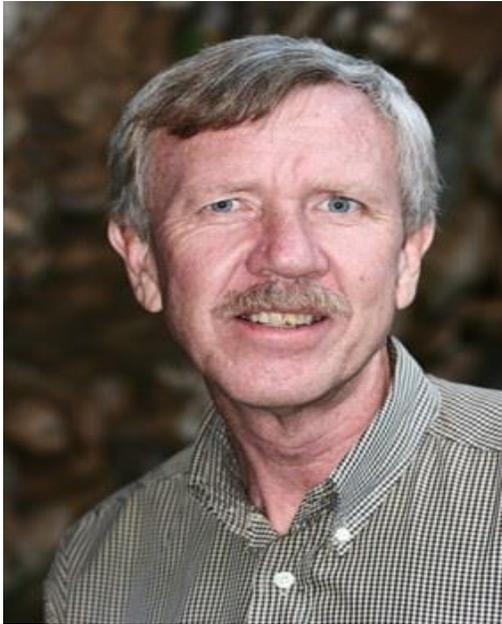
The Vredefort Dome (Afr. “die Koepel”) is not without proper justification a World Heritage Site, as it is a unique geological setting and one of a kind in the world. Many lessons can be learnt from this precious geographical region. The meteorite that plunged into this area with a massive impact two billion years ago changed the landscape of the Dome dramatically. Today it is a unique, functional environment where three biomes co-exist, namely grassland, fresh water and bushveld. This uniqueness is reflected in the fact that grassland and bushveld usually do not co-exist in the same natural environment. The three biomes again consist of a number of habitats, which also co-exist. South African education is in dire need of dramatic impacts and a topography characterised by change towards functionality and harmonious diversity. Opposing forces seem to be at work which should actually co-exist for the improvement of all our learners’/students’ education. Some examples of these forces are: the scientific work of academics in higher education are often not aligned or in tune with the needs of school practitioners, school management teams are often not supported by educators, educator unions often do not seem to focus on the same issues as the Department of Basic Education – and learners and students do not always share the same vision as school and higher education leadership. In the Dome, however, different, yet opposing biomes not only manage to co-exist, but all available evidence clearly indicates that they are expected to do so for the foreseeable future.

### 3. KEY NOTE ADDRESSES

#### 2017 EASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

##### Prof Frans Waanders

##### Title of address: Introduction to the Vredefort Dome as World Heritage Site



Prof Waanders obtained his BSc-degree in Physics and Geology, MSc- and DSc-degrees in Nuclear Physics at the PU for CHE. From 1976 until 1979 he was a geologist at the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine before returning to the University. From 1979 until 1989 he lectured in the department of Physics at the PU for CHE, but during 1986-1987 and 1998 he was a guest lecturer/researcher at the Münster University, Germany. In 1990 he joined the Geology Department at the PU for CHE. In 1992 he was asked to join the Metallurgical Engineering Department and completed his engineering studies to be able to register as professional engineer and in 1997 the Metallurgical Engineering Department was incorporated in the School of Chemical and Minerals Engineering where he is currently a professor and the director of the School. He has delivered numerous papers on various topics at national and international conferences, is

the author/co-author of more than 150 publications of international standard and was part of the 3-man team that managed to inscribe the Vredefort Dome as World Heritage Site in 2005. Prof Waanders is a member of the South African Institute of Physics, South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a fellow member of the Geology Society of South Africa. He is a registered engineer and natural scientist.

##### Prof André Keet

##### Title of address: Pause/ing Education: Retreat, Reflect and *Being-present at The Dome*

André joined the higher education sector for the first time on a full-time professional basis in October 2008 when he became the Director of the Transdisciplinary Programme at the University of Fort Hare. Between 1996 and 2008, he worked in and with independent public institutions responsible for navigating the crucial transitional phase in South Africa's contemporary history whilst also teaching part-time and on a visiting basis at universities across the world. Most of his post-1994 work and teaching focussed on processes aimed at deepening democracy, social justice and the promotion and protection of human rights. Joining the South African Human Rights Commission in 1996, André later on became its



Deputy Chief Executive Officer. On a unanimous recommendation from parliament, the president appointed André as a part-time Commissioner to the Commission for Gender Equality in 2008. He is a frequently invited speaker at South African and other universities abroad, as well as at academic conferences. André is presently based as the Director of the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice and advisor to the Rectorate. He was also appointed to serve as the Acting Vice-Rector (student affairs and external relations) until the end of December 2017. His research and postgraduate supervision focus on four areas: critical studies in higher education transformation; social justice, social

cohesion and reconciliation; human rights, democracy and citizenship education; and public participation, critical citizenship and democracy development.

#### 4. INTERESTS GROUPS

The following Interest Groups will be revived at the Conference, and a slot is earmarked for colleagues to share and discuss issues related to these groupings:

1. Educational Management, Leadership, Law and Policy Studies
2. Human Development in Education: Educational Psychology, Early Childhood Education, Life Orientation, Movement Education and Inclusive Education/Learning Support
3. Curriculum Studies, Philosophy and Sociology of Education, and Research Methodology
4. Social Sciences Education: Languages, History, EMS and Creative/Performing Arts
5. Science, Mathematics and Technology Education

#### 5. WORLD EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (WERA) REPORT

WERA Symposia and Workshop took place @ APERA-TERA (Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association - Taiwan Education Research Association) conference from 9-11 November 2016 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. WERA Council meeting took place during APERA – TERA conference which was hosted by National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU), Kaohsiung Taiwan. The picture below of WERA council members was taken at NSYSU, Kaohsiung Taiwan during the focal meeting. During the council meeting in Taiwan, it was decided that WERA will hold a standalone conference in 2018. This first ever conference will be in South Africa, Cape Town. More information will follow regarding WERA's standalone conference, watch the space. In 2017, WERA focal meeting will take place at the following two conferences:

1. A WERA Council Meeting will take place during the AERA (American Education Research Association) Conference in San Antonio, TX from Thursday, April 27 – May 1, 2017 and at

2. Hong Kong Educational Research Association (HKERA) Conference hosted by the Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), Hong Kong on the 30 November – 2 December 2017. Visit the website ([https://www.eduhk.hk/wera\\_hkera2017](https://www.eduhk.hk/wera_hkera2017)) for conference registration.



The following information is important regarding Executive members (WERA officers) and organisation representative members of WERA, check the website for more information (<http://www.weraonline.org/>).

### ***WERA Officers are:***

The President: Felice Levine [flevine@aera.net](mailto:flevine@aera.net)

Vice-President: Mustafa Yunus Eryaman, [yunuseryaman@gmail.com](mailto:yunuseryaman@gmail.com)

Immediate Past President: Sari Lindblom-Ylänne, [sari.lindblom-ylanne@helsinki.fi](mailto:sari.lindblom-ylanne@helsinki.fi)

Past President: Yin Cheong Cheng, [yccheng@ied.edu.hk](mailto:yccheng@ied.edu.hk)

President-Elect: Ingrid Gogolin, [gogolin@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:gogolin@uni-hamburg.de)

Secretary-General: Liesel Ebersöhn, [liesel.ebersohn@up.ac.za](mailto:liesel.ebersohn@up.ac.za)

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**Education Association of South Africa-Mokgatlho wa Thuto wa Afrika Borwa-Opvoedkunde Vereniging van Suid Afrika- Inhlangano Ezemfundo YaseNingizimu Afrika**

## **WERA REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBERS**

- Consejo Mexicano de Investigacion Educativa (COMIE) Pedro Flores-Crespo, Alternate: [pedrofc71@yahoo.com](mailto:pedrofc71@yahoo.com)
- Education Association of South Africa (EASA) Ruth Mampane, Chair: [ruth.mampane@up.ac.za](mailto:ruth.mampane@up.ac.za)
- Educational Research Association of Singapore (ERAS) Bee Leng Chua, Alternate: [beeleng.chua@nie.edu.sg](mailto:beeleng.chua@nie.edu.sg)
- European Educational Research Association (EERA) Theo Wubbels, President: [T.Wubbels@uu.nl](mailto:T.Wubbels@uu.nl)
- Hong Kong Educational Research Association (HKERA) Winnie Wing Mui So, Alternate: [wiso@ied.edu.hk](mailto:wiso@ied.edu.hk)
- Japanese Educational Research Association (JERA) Manabu Sato, Representative: [learningsato@gmail.com](mailto:learningsato@gmail.com) ; [20120003@gakushuin.ac.jp](mailto:20120003@gakushuin.ac.jp)
- Korean Educational Research Association (KERA) Dong-Seop Jin, President: [dsjin@snu.ac.kr](mailto:dsjin@snu.ac.kr)
- Multidisciplinary Educational Research Association (Asociación Multidisciplinar de Investigación Educativa) (AMIE) Rocio Garcia-Carrion, President: [rocio.garcia@deusto.es](mailto:rocio.garcia@deusto.es)
- Peruvian Educational Research Society (Sociedad de Investigación Educativa Peruana) (SIEP) Veronica Villaran, President: [veronicavillaran@gmail.com](mailto:veronicavillaran@gmail.com)
- Polish Educational Research Association (PERA) Joanna Madalinska-Michalak, President: [joanna.michalak@onet.pl](mailto:joanna.michalak@onet.pl)
- Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA) George Head, President: [george.head@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:george.head@glasgow.ac.uk)
- South African Educational Research Association (SAERA) Aslam Fataar: [afataar@sun.ac.za](mailto:afataar@sun.ac.za)
- Spanish Pedagogical Society (Sociedad Española de Pedagogía) (SEP) Gonzalo Jover, Vice-President: [gjover@edu.ucm.es](mailto:gjover@edu.ucm.es)
- Taiwan Education Research Association (TERA-Taiwan) Hsu-Chan Kuo, Representative: [kentcre8@gmail.com](mailto:kentcre8@gmail.com)
- Turkish Educational Research Association (TERA-Turkey) Mustafa Yunus Eryaman, President: [yunuseryaman@gmail.com](mailto:yunuseryaman@gmail.com)

## 6. 2016 EASA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Kelly Arendse Photography

From Left to right: Motlalepule, Ruth Mampane, Monwabisi Ralarala, Eldrie Gouws; Liesel Ebershön; Dipane Hlalele; Meahabo Dinah Magano; Jan Heystek and Anna-Marie Dicker.

***Executive members who are not in the photo:***

Raj Mestry; Eric Eberlein and Ronel Ferreira

## 7. Membership fee

### ***Become a member of EASA***

Individual members, educational institutions, educational associations, postgraduate students in the field of education and any other organisations engaged in or committed to education research are eligible for membership status. EASA strives to promote excellence in educational research and science by means of interactive network formation and inclusive discourse by developing education, training and community development. Current EASA members pay an annual subscription fee of R450.00. The membership fee is included in the conference registration fee.