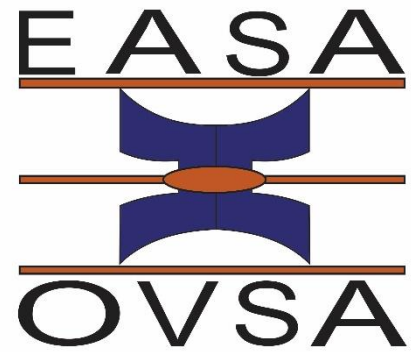


**EASA**  
**NEWSLETTER 2**  
**DECEMBER 2017**



**EASA 2018 Conference**  
**14 to 17 January 2018**  
**Elangeni Hotel, Durban, South Africa**



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## 1. Message from the Chairperson: *Prof Ruth Mampane*

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Higher education experienced greater stability in 2017 compared to previous years (2015-2016) with regard to student unrest. We can either thank the delayed and concurrent absence of the long awaited Fees Commissioned report by **Justice Jonathan Arthur Heher**, which is currently under review by the presidency for this peaceful transitions. The awaited report is on the feasibility of fee-free higher education and training in South Africa. It cannot be denied that South African universities were shaken by this revolutionary well-coordinated national **#FeesMustFall** movement. Higher education has not been the same since the most recent revolutionary quests to 'rectify' the perceived financial, curricular and social ills of higher education and the government of South Africa.



Similarly, universities are feeling the pinch as research funding opportunities are dwindling and remain inaccessible to newly qualified academics. This touches at the core of teaching and learning (research improves teaching and funding improves the quality of research) and curricular transformation (research is key to transforming teaching). EASA delegates are touched and affected by the current transitions in the higher education sector. Most universities froze teaching and support service positions (blaming insourcing of cleaning, security, gardening and etc. staff) thus adding to the already enormous workload. We can ask: what does this have to do with conferences and similar gatherings like what we will be having during this upcoming EASA January conference? The answer is simple: we need research funding to attend conferences and to do the research we show case in such academic gatherings, we need conferences to learn about innovative teaching practices, research methods, and new knowledge regarding best practices, what works in education, to share ideas and to learn about the craft of our profession. Education is a science, it is core in teaching and learning and is the flagship of the nation. Joël de Rosnay confirms that: *“Education is at the heart of all the strategies built around the future. It is a global issue, and one of the major challenges of the third millennium.”* The question I would like to leave you with is the same question I struggle with, namely:

- How have you transformed your curriculum to be relevant and inclusive of all South African students?
- How do you contribute to the national fiscal by responding to the call for entrepreneurship in higher education modules?
- How have your research transformed / informed your teaching and also how is your research informed by teaching?

This message is to acknowledge, firstly, **#FeesMustFall** movement is what will go in history as the revolution the education sector needed (higher education mostly and still basic education). Secondly, higher education

institutions, the government and ministry of HE have understood, acknowledged and responded to the message, universities have implemented most if not all of the concerns raised by students in their specific institutions. Thirdly, academic and support staff at universities are expected to make enormous sacrifices (workload increase due to frozen post and decreased research funding opportunities) to allow universities to recover from incurred costs relating to insourcing and not fees increases. Lastly, the one question I struggle with is how do you decolonise an already colonised mind – as an academic, can I claim to not be affected by colonisation? How then do I teach on decolonisation when I myself am a product of colonisation?

Kind regards

Prof Ruth Mampane

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## 2. Conference 2018 in Durban

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The annual conference of the Education Association of South Africa (EASA), set for the 14 to 17 January 2018, brings the association to the golden mile of Durban's beach front set against the backdrop of sunny skies, world class beaches and great hospitality of the multicultural Durban, rich in heritage and history. The School of Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal is host to the January 2018 annual conference. This iteration of the conferences promises to offer invigorating presentations, cutting edge conversations and deep engagements in issues across Education in South Africa and beyond. The conference theme is forward looking with a view to providing some innovative examples, actions and intellectualisms into what we have learnt and how might education in South Africa unfold in the next decade.

### CONFERENCE THEME:

#### Charting Inventive Educational Pathways:

Theoretical and applied approaches for negotiating the current educational discourses in South Africa

#### Important Dates:

Final date to submit proof of payment: 11 December 2017

#### Enquiries:

##### General and Registration:

Bronwyn and Petra Lawson  
Conference Administrators  
E-mail: [conferencepl@gmail.com](mailto:conferencepl@gmail.com)  
Phone: 083 231 6538

##### Conference organisation chair:

Prof Labby Ramrathan  
UKZN  
E-mail: [ramrathanp@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:ramrathanp@ukzn.ac.za)  
Phone: 082 674 9829

### 3. Message from the Treasurer

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Prof Raj Mestry

To all members who have not attended the 2017 EASA Conference

It will be highly appreciated if you can please pay your membership fees for 2017.

Membership fees: R400

**Payment will be accepted as follows:**

**Electronic Internet banking:**

ABSA Bank  
Account Type: Cheque Account  
Account No.: 0010722047  
Branch code: 63200500  
Account name:  
Opvoedkunde Vereniging van Suid-Afrika (OVSA)  
Your Ref: Membership fees 2018: NAME

Kindly e-mail the proof of payment to  
Dicker, Anne-Mari  
[Dickeam@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Dickeam@unisa.ac.za); copy to  
[rajm@uj.ac.za](mailto:rajm@uj.ac.za)

**Direct bank deposit:**

ABSA Bank  
Account Type: Cheque Account  
Account No.: 0010722047  
Branch code: 63200500  
Account name:  
Opvoedkunde Vereniging van Suid-Afrika (OVSA)

Your Ref: Membership fees 2018: NAME

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR NAME IS INCLUDED IN THE REFERENCE**

#### **4. From the Web Coordinator**

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The EASA website is hosted by REDCACTUS, a small but thoroughly professional and dedicated graphic design, website and internet hosting company in Pretoria. As the coordinator for the EASA website for the past 4 years, it has been and remains my pleasure to work with these consummate professionals in the development, updating and maintenance of the EASA website.

The website is very user friendly, with drop-down menus for among other topics the annual EASA conference, details on membership and the recently re-constituted EASA Special Interest Groups (SIG's). The website also has specific pages dedicated to the South African Journal of Education (SAJE) and the World Education Research Association (WERA), while interested visitors may also view the EASA constitution and make contact with the members of the EASA executive committee under the 'About' drop-down menu. Regular EASA conference attendees may also be interested in the photo galleries for past conferences - have a look through the innumerable photos and see whether you can find that photo you did not know was being taken!

Any website, however, is only as good as its content, and the content for the EASA website must come not only from the EASA executive committee, but also from the annual conference organisers, the SIG secretaries and the EASA membership - please feel free to present any information you deem relevant to the greater EASA family to me at [eric.eberlein@up.ac.za](mailto:eric.eberlein@up.ac.za), and I will be happy to consider and negotiate its inclusion on the website. We look forward to your visit - let's see who many visits to the site (<http://www.easa.ac.za>) we can amass between now and EASA Conference 2018 in Kwazulu-Natal!

Blessings

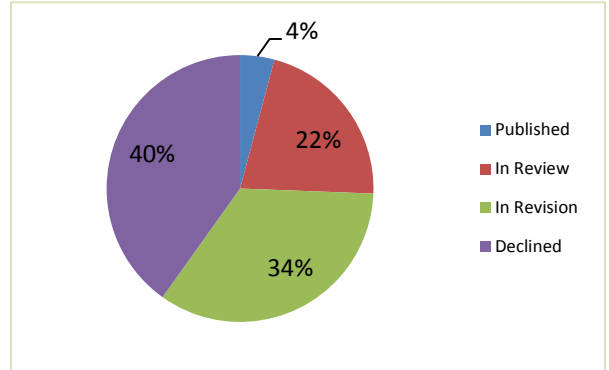
Dr Eric Eberlein

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## 5. Update on the South African Journal of Education (SAJE)

During 2017, SAJE continued its upward trajectory, in terms of submissions received from both national and international authors. Based on its current standing, SAJE's journal impact factor has steadily increased over recent years, from 0.380 in 2011, to 0.729 in 2016. According to the Journal Citations Report® (Clarivate Analytics, 2017), SAJE ranked 167th of 235 journals in Education and Educational Research, with a 5-year impact factor of 0.749. In terms of the most used titles in the SciELO SA collection, SAJE ranked second for the period 1 January 2007 to 21 April 2017, following the *South African Medical Journal* with most used titles.

For the period January to November 2017, manuscript submissions totalled 289, of which 156 were by international scholars. Of these submissions, 93 were sent out for review following an initial screening process by the editorial committee. Concerning accepted manuscripts, 12 articles were published in the February 2017 issue (Volume 37:1), 11 in the May issue (Volume 37:2), 14 in the August issue (Volume 37:3) and 10 in the November issue (Volume 37:4). In total, 36 of the published articles were national contributions and 11 international.



Upcoming special issues include the following:

- The nature and extent of bullying in a developing country context, with guest editors Prof Vanessa Scherman and Prof Rachel Annunziato (Volume 37(1), April 2018);
- 'Decolonising' education transformation, with guest editor Prof André Keet (Volume 38(4), November 2018, submissions due by 15 April 2018).

As executive editor I would like to express my appreciation to the administrative editor Ms Estelle Botha, associate editor Prof Liesel Ebersöhn and editorial committee consisting of Prof Kobus Maree (University of Pretoria), Prof Naydene de Lange (Nelson Mandela University) and Prof Vanessa Scherman (University of South Africa). In addition, thank you to the following board members, for contributing to a successful year for SAJE: Prof Jean Baxen (Rhodes University), Prof Theresa Catalano (University of Nebraska–Lincoln), Prof Bora Demir (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University), Prof Aslam Fataar (Stellenbosch University), Prof Rocío García-Carrión (University of Deusto), Prof Jan Heystek (North-West University), Prof Ann Higgins-D'Alessandro (Fordham University), Prof Ina Joubert (University of Pretoria), Prof Linda Liebenberg (Dalhousie University), Prof Joanna Madalińska-Michalak (University of Warsaw), Prof Dinah Magano (University of South Africa), Prof Raj Mestry (University of Johannesburg), Prof Aleidine Moeller (University of Nebraska–Lincoln), Prof Mokgadi Moletsane (University of the Western Cape), Prof Karen Murphy (The Pennsylvania State University), Prof Andre Pelsler (University of the Free State), Prof Daisy Pillay (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Prof Salim Razi (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University), Dr Rose Ruto-Korir (Moi University), Prof Brigitte Smit (University of South Africa), Prof Winnie Wing So (The Hong Kong Institute of Education), Prof Gerrit Stols (University of Pretoria), and Dr Simon Taukeni (University of Namibia)

Ronél Ferreira

SAJE

Executive editor

December 2017