



# NEWSLETTER

- JULY 2015

# EASA / OVSA NEWSLETTER, JULY 2015

## Contents

### Message from the Chair

Dr Dipane Hlalele

### SAERA welcomes EASA

Prof Aslam Fataar

### WERA

Prof Lesley Wood

### SAJE

Prof Liesel Ebersöhn

### EASA

2015 Executive committee

### Feedback 2015 Conference

Dr Ruth Mampane

2015 EASA Awards

2015 EASA Book Launch

### 2016 EASA Conference



EASA 2016 Conference: Arabella Country Estate







# Message from the Chair

Welcome to the 2015 academic year. We hope that you will find the year rewarding. EASA strives to promote excellence in educational research and science by means of interactive network formation and inclusive discourse. This is achieved through the promotion of education, training and community development.

Once again, EASA opened the year with an engaging conference hosted by the University of Pretoria. This conference attracted more than 200 delegates. Building on the gains of the 2014 conference held at Golden Gate, the 2015 conference saw membership soaring to over 202 members. It was a pleasure to be an audience to three seasoned academics who presented keynote addresses. They are Prof Irma Eloff who is the dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria; Prof Mokgadi Moletsane, the Deputy Dean of Research and Student Support at the University of the Western Cape as well as Dr. David Osher, the Vice President, AIR Institute Fellow and Senior Advisor to the Health and Human Development Program at The American Institutes for Research.

EASA continues to recognise and reward excellence by amongst others, presenting annual awards in three categories. Three of the finest scholars, Professors Irma Eloff, Aslam Fataar as well as Brigitte Smith received awards for academic excellence and research in their respective fields. We salute you!

EASA ramped on to the technology fast lane when its revamped website went live in 2014. We express our appreciation to Eric Eberlein and Eldrie Gouws for their sterling work. The website provides an exciting and useful platform for members to engage in creatively. You are welcome to contribute success stories and notices of interest for distribution to the broader membership.

We resolved to document a brief history of the Association. Inputs from members are welcome.

I wish to thank the EASA Executive Committee as well as the entire membership for their contribution to the Association. EASA has achieved a lot because of the commitment and dedication of its members. Members are further encouraged to exploit opportunities in respect of international participation in bodies such as WERA.

May 2015 be a fruitful year for you, your colleagues and loved ones

**Dipane Hlalele**  
EASA Chair



# SAERA Welcomes EASA

Prof Aslam Fataar

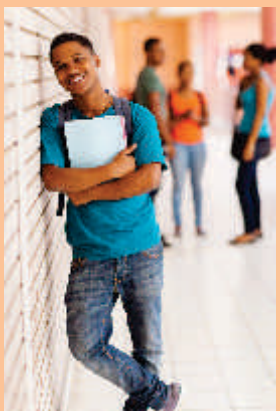


It is a privilege to welcome EASA as an affiliate member of the South African Education Research Association. Actually, welcoming is not quite accurate as EASA is a founding member of SAERA, having been part of the original founding processes that started in 2010, and playing a leading role in its establishment as well as the first conference that was hosted by the inimitable Prof Eldrie Gouws from UNISA.

EASA is SAERA and SAERA is EASA. The two organisations acknowledge the onerous task of building out the educational academic field in service of rigorous, relevant and engaged scholarship. Our mutual cooperation is aimed at securing our commitment to providing development and academic socializing opportunities for younger academics, and the development of wide ranging epistemic diversity that promotes scholarship across our beloved country and indeed the African continent.

Productive scholarly emergence remains the orientating ethos of our work as academic associations. This is facilitated by our development workshops and conferences, journal and book publications and cutting edge research projects. We have long moved to a situation of working across older boundaries of exclusion. We are determined to forge new human relations and research vistas via our education research.

We are particularly proud to host the 3rd SAERA conference in from 27 to 30 October 2015 in Bloemfontein. The conference promises to be an exciting and invigorating occasion. EASA's participation in SAERA's activities, including our annual conference, definitely secures a wonderful platform for on going collaboration aimed at building the education academic field in South Africa, and committing to the developing of 'newer' academics. We are, as organizations, deeply committed to the reform and systemic improvement of all levels and areas of our country's education system.





# WERA

Prof Lesley Wood



EASA is proud to be a founding member of the World Educational Research Association (WERA) which is growing in strength and influence. At a recent council meeting in Chicago, at the annual AERA conference, we heard of many new research initiatives.

I encourage all EASA members to check out the WERA website ([www.weraonline.org](http://www.weraonline.org)) which gives news and detailed information on the opportunity to create/join an International Research Network or how to become an individual member should you wish. As a member of EASA, you are entitled to the benefits of WERA membership, which include the following:

- Discounts on WERA publications, including the World Education Research Yearbook
- Discounts on WERA professional development workshops and courses
- Opportunity to propose and lead a WERA International Research Network (IRN)
- Online news and information about education research activities around the world (conferences, calls for papers, etc.), and the opportunity to participate in discussion groups, podcasts, and other WERA activities
- Automatic membership in the Graduate Student Forum

WERA is developing into a vibrant international research network which offers many opportunities for South African researchers to enter the global arena. At the upcoming Focal Meeting in Budapest, over 100 papers/symposia will be presented, as well as two research workshops. Our own Prof Liesel Ebersöhn is currently Secretary General of WERA and SAERA is also a member, giving Mzansi a strong voice in this international research association. We are currently organising a WERA symposium for our 2016 conference, and are planning to submit a joint application with SAERA to hold a WERA focal meeting in South Africa at the first available opportunity.



# SAJE

Prof Liesel Ebersöhn



At the EASA Annual Conference, a symposium was devoted to showcase authors who published in the Special Issue: Schools as Safe and Enabling Spaces. The SAJE Symposium was chaired by Prof Liesel Ebersöhn (Executive Editor, SAJE). The two Guest Editors of the Special Issue served as Discussants: Prof Mahlapahlapana Themane (University of Limpopo) and Dr David Osher (Vice-President, American Institutes for Research).





Authors Special Issue:  
Schools as Safe and Enabling Spaces



**from left to right:** Sogo Matlala (UNISA), Mpho Modipane (University of Limpopo), David Osher (American Institute for Research), Mahlapahlapana Themane (University of Limpopo), Liesel Ebersöhn (University of Pretoria), Ruth Mampane (University of Pretoria).



# EASA

## 2015 Executive committee



**Front left to right:** Lesley Wood; Eldrie Gouws; Ruth Mampane; Liesel Ebersöhn; Dinah Magano;  
**Back left to right:** Anne-Mari Dicker; Raj Mestry; Eric Eberlein; Dipane Hlalele; Ronel Ferreira; Monwabisi Ralarala  
and Jan Heystek (not in the photo)





# Feedback from 2015 EASA Conference

Dr Ruth Mampane

The feedback received from invited guest speakers and delegates confirmed that the conference offered high quality presentations. The breadth and scope of themes under the overall theme of “Celebrating Excellence in Education: A strong and enduring education system in the first 20 years of democracy” attracted papers from various research methodologies and disciplines from across South Africa and internationally.

The venue provided a tranquil environment where the beauty of nature was accentuated by beautiful mountains and hills, nested and surrounded by wide open and spatial areas of green flora. The beauty and luxurious ambiance of waking up to clean and fresh air in the morning, free of air pollution; the enjoyment of sharing space with wild fauna – these became “normal” experiences by the end of the conference. The venue presented a glimpse of what South Africa can offer, the luxury of nature.

The delegate feedback confirmed that the presenters were humble, approachable, readily willing to mentor and network with upcoming academics, students and non-academics.

Even the accomplished researchers and academics were approachable and down to earth, which made the conference less intimidating and a good forum to network, collaborate and learn more about new research methodologies and foci.

Students who attended the conference were impressed by the opportunity provided to them to present their ongoing research; they also commented that the atmosphere allowed them to feel confident about their work. They applauded the high quality of presentations and recognised that attendance at EASA provided them with a space to share their research and opened up opportunities for them to apply for medals in their postgraduate masters and doctoral research. This, in their view, provided them with the opportunity to value research and grow in confidence that they could make a worthwhile contribution to knowledge.





## Feedback from 2015 EASA Conference

Dr David Osher is Vice President, American Institutes for Research (AIR), AIR Institute Fellow and Senior Advisor to the Health and Human Development Program. Prof Irma Eloff is Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria. She is the seventh dean and the first woman to hold this position. She is the founder of the African Deans Education Forum. Irma is an NRF-rated researcher, a registered psychologist and she has received several awards for her research in Education and Educational Psychology. In July 2014 she won the international Prize for Excellence in HIV Research Related to Children from the International AIDS Society (IAS) and the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS, in Melbourne. Prof Mokgadi Moletsane is the Deputy Dean of Research and Student Support at the University of the Western Cape. She is a registered educational Psychologist.

All three keynote speakers had powerful papers which addressed the state of education locally and globally which were relevant to both academics and postgraduate students.



From left to right: Dr. David Osher, Prof Irma Eloff and Prof Mokgadi Moletsane



# 2015 EASA Awards

**Prof Aslam Fataar** is a B3 NRF rated scientist, and a lecturer at Stellenbosch University from 2009. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his scholarship. EASA recognized his contribution to research by awarding him the Medal of Honour.

**Prof Irma Eloff** is an NRF rated researcher, a registered Psychologist and Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria. She has won numerous awards, including the Most Influential Woman in Government in South Africa in the Education category. EASA awarded her a Medal of Honour.

**Prof Brigitte Smit** (PhD) is a National Research Foundation C2 rated researcher and lecturer in the Department of Educational Leadership and Management at the University of South Africa. She is a recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Reviewer Award for the American Educational Research Journal: Social and Institutional Analysis. In 2014 she was a visiting professor at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada and at the Free University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. EASA awarded her the Research Medal.

## MEDAL AWARDS



From left to right: Aslam Fataar, Irma Eloff, Brigitte Smit.

## 2015 EASA Book Launch

Pearson hosted the opening cocktail function at EASA in January 2015 from the magnificent roof of the Legend Resort as the sun was setting. Three recently-published Pearson books were launched: *The Adolescent* 4th ed (edited by Eldrie Gouws), *Becoming a Teacher* 2nd ed (edited by Josef de Beer, Sarah Gravett and Elize du Plessis) and *Curriculum Studies* (edited by Petro du Preez and Chris Reddy).



Elize du Plessis and Josef de Beer



Liesbet van Wyk and Eldrie Gouws





# 2016 EASA Conference

Prof Monwabisi Ralarala - Conference Organising Chair

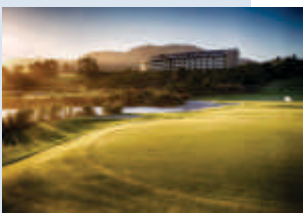


The 2016 EASA Conference will be hosted by the Fundani Centre for Higher Education Development in partnership with the Faculty of Education, Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Cape Town.



**Date**  
17 to 20 January 2016

**Venue**  
Arabella Hotel & Spa, Hermanus, Western Cape, South Africa



**Theme**  
*Dealing with educational inequalities in the age of measurement in South Africa – chasing numbers versus supporting students to succeed.*

For more information and call for papers visit:  
[www.easa.ac.za](http://www.easa.ac.za)

Submission of abstracts final date:  
20 August 2015



# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015