



# Call for Abstracts

The Southern Africa Regional Science Association (SARSA), in collaboration with the journal *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), and the Department of Construction Economics and Management at the University of Cape Town, announces the

## 3rd Southern Africa Regional Science Association Annual Conference

### Rethinking the Regional Development Opportunities and Challenges in Southern Africa

10 - 12 September 2025. University of Cape Town, South Africa

#### Conference Themes

The conference will specifically focus on how rapid urbanisation in Southern Africa has created a range of development opportunities and challenges. The conference seeks to address a broad range of themes that include but are not limited to the following:

- Urban and Economic Resilience
- Urbanisation and City Growth Processes
- Housing Development (Affordable & Low-Cost Housing)
- Smart Cities Planning and Sustainability
- Sustainable Urban Development and Management
- Urban Infrastructure
- Urban Agriculture & Food Systems
- Climate Change Resilience and Adaptability
- Regional Migration and Urban Development
- Urban Crime and Safety
- Poverty, Inequality and Informality
- Transportation and Mobility in Urban Areas

#### Conference Registration

Early Bird Conference Registration Opens:  
**02 June 2025**

Late Conference Registration:  
**15 July 2025**

Conference Registration Closes: **15 August 2025**

Conference Dates: **10-12 September 2025**

Deadline for Submission of Papers to *Regional Science Policy and Practice* Special Issue: **TBA**

Conference Registration fees

Early Bird Registration: **R3 000**

Late Registration: **R3 500**

Students: **R2 000**

*A limited amount of funding is available to assist delegates with difficulty in raising the registration fees. Contact the Local Organising Committee for more information.*

#### Important Dates

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts (300 Words):  
**31 January 2025**

Notification of Accepted Abstracts:  
**28 February 2025**

Submission of Full Papers: **30 April 2025**

Notification of full paper acceptance:  
**30 June 2025**

Resubmission of revised papers:  
**30 July 2025**

The following deadlines apply for non-refereed papers and abstracts:

Submission: **30 July 2025**

Notification of acceptance: **4 August 2025**

#### Submission Details

**Abstracts** for papers should contain the purpose, objective(s), methods, findings, and implications/significance.

**Keywords** (up to five) should be included.

**Full papers** should contain an abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, findings and discussion, and conclusion.

**Papers and abstracts** should be submitted online using this [link](#).

Note that papers will only be accepted on the programme if the author/co-author will attend the conference

If you have any questions relating to your submission, please contact **Dr. Elizabeth Musvoto** ([liz.musvoto@uct.ac.za](mailto:liz.musvoto@uct.ac.za)), **Dr. Tazviona Richman Gambe** ([trgambe@gmail.com](mailto:trgambe@gmail.com)) or **Dr. Nobukhosi Ngwenya** ([nobukhosi.ngwenya@uct.ac.za](mailto:nobukhosi.ngwenya@uct.ac.za)).

For more information, visit the conference website:  
<https://sarsa2025.weebly.com>



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#### About SARSA

As a regional science association in Southern Africa, we are a community of scholars interested in the regional impacts of national or regional economic and social change processes. Regional science cuts across urban and rural regions - regions under analysis can be in urban or rural areas or a comparison of urban and rural regions. In short, the phenomena under study can be economic, social, political, environmental, behavioural or any other phenomenon with a spatial dimension.

The overarching aim of our conference is "Rethinking the Regional Development Opportunities and Challenges in Southern Africa". Some of the objectives include the following:

- To create a platform for scholars and practitioners in Southern Africa to come together and discuss innovative ways of tackling challenges bedeviling countries in the region.
- To promote scientific or evidence-based policymaking in the region, i.e. encouraging the use of scientific and replicable methodologies in problem identification, definition and analysis.
- To promote growth and development of regional science in the region - i.e. the use of empirical data to understand the relationship of and processes unfolding in Southern Africa's regions.

#### Travel and Accommodation

All delegates must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. A list of hotels and lodges near the venue will be posted on the conference website once negotiations with the service providers are completed.

#### Publications and Awards

Accepted full papers (peer-reviewed and presented at the conference) will be published in Conference Proceedings with an ISBN.

Papers will also be considered for publication in the journal *Regional Science Policy & Practice*.

A prize for the Best Student Paper will be awarded.

Prizes will be awarded for the best paper in the various conference themes. Details TBA.

The conference is has been accredited by **SACPLAN**. CPD points will be awarded for conference participation and paper submission.

#### Organising Committee

- Dr Elizabeth Musvoto** (Conference Chair and Host, University of Cape Town)
- Dr Tazviona Richman Gambe** (Chair, Scientific Committee, University of the Free State)
- Dr Nobukhosi Ngwenya** (Chair, Technical Committee, University of Cape Town)
- Dr Frank Ametefe** (University of Cape Town)
- Dr Rolien Terblanche** (University of Cape Town)
- Dr Charles Poleni Mukumba** (University of the Free State)
- Prof Tomás Lopes Cavalheiro Ponce Dentinho** (University of Azores)
- Ms. Tinovimba Semu** (University of the Free State)
- Ms. Talent Ndlovu** (University of the Free State)