

CALL *for Abstracts*

JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES & THE FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

In Memory of Simon Lumbu

Conference Theme: Equality and Equity: Towards Attaining a Decent Standard of Living

The faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) and of Economic and Management Sciences (FEMS) of the University of Namibia invite academics, practitioners and researchers to submit abstracts of scientific papers for possible presentation at the annual research conference. The Conference will address **equality and social equity as key dimensions or strategies towards attaining a decent standard of living**. Since its inception in 2010, the Conference themes were based on research priorities of the University of Namibia, but also pertinent to the topical debates in Namibia and Africa at large. It has provided a platform to showcase research and share ideas relevant to the Namibian society, Africa and the world at large. It also provides a space to disseminate knowledge through academic dialogue. The Conference will be held in Windhoek, Namibia on the **26th and 27th of September 2018**. Your abstract should clearly indicate which sub-theme your paper wishes to address from the list below:

SUB-THEMES

Papers can address sub-themes in these categories

- The land question(s) and land reform (including communal areas' farmers access to markets)
- Infrastructural development
- Business and finance
- Economic recession and government debt
- Corruption
- Access and quality of healthcare
- Equitable education (including: funding, free education, employability, public vs private schools)
- Indigenous knowledge and cultural expressions
- Sovereign credit ratings
- Unemployment
- Digital divide
- Legislation and policy implementation
- Informality and the "second-class economy"

RATIONALE

Africa remains troubled with the world's most skewed and inequitable distribution of human development gains. The two uppermost socio-economic ills: poverty and inequality are higher, with countries like Namibia being amongst the top five especially in terms of inequality. The intersectionality of race, gender and class are defining factors in these dynamics. Uneven and inequitable distribution of resources (land, infrastructural development, education, health), and unequal distribution of effects and impacts of economic recession and government debts, inequalities in the business and finance sector, high rates of unemployment, criminalisation of informality, digital divide and corruption (amongst others) are all socio-economic ills inhibiting attainment of a decent standard of living. Recent sovereign credit ratings for countries like Namibia present an image of risk in terms of investment. Within the context of such socio-economic ills, calls for equality and social justice have become louder in recent times. The 2018 Conference takes a positive angle to showcasing how equality and social justice are the key turnaround strategies for the attainment of a decent standard of living. The Conference provides a platform and space for a critical engagement from multidisciplinary papers addressing equality and equity. The proposed papers should go beyond the rigid development oriented conceptions of 'a decent standard of living' to interrogate the very issue of what 'a decent standard of living' entails and for whom. The aim is to have specific and relative conceptions of a decent standard of living, which will allow us to deliberate on how we should go about with equality and equity as key strategies to attain such.

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Abstracts of not more than 200 words (in Microsoft Word) should be sent to the conference emailing address fhssfemsconference2018@unam.na, on or before the **3rd of August 2018**. All abstracts will go through a blind review process. Relevance to the sub-themes strictly within the context of the conference theme and originality of the proposed papers are key considerations in the acceptance of all submissions. Each presenter may submit a maximum of two abstracts, as long as the second paper is under a different sub-theme. The organising committee will inform successful presenters by the **24th of August 2018**. Please note that presenters are required to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.