

**THEME** >>>>>>>>

**DATES:**  
**24 – 25 OCTOBER 2024**

**VENUE: KWAZULU-NATAL, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

## JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



The world has, over the last two decades, been hit by a series of crises, ranging from financial to political crises. The Great Recession of 2008 has had huge and long-lasting impacts on the economies of both the developed and developing countries. Political crises ensued, as a result of these crises, as evidenced by the recent political polarisation, and democracy regression around the globe. The recent pandemic has unmasked the extent of the inequality, poverty, and social exclusion among populations around the world. These crises also happen within the existing “grand” climate and sustainability challenges.

It is against this background that the theme of the Conference on Public Innovation, Development and Sustainability is centred on innovation and how it can respond to the recent crises. Concepts such as “innovation for development”, “information and communication technology (ICT) for development”, “digital economies”, and “artificial intelligence” (AI) are being increasingly used in academic and policy discourses. The idea of innovation for development (I4D) has now been entrenched within countries and international development organisations.

In trying to tackle the grand societal challenges through innovation, some scholars and policymakers have recently called for mission-oriented innovation. Previously, innovation debates were centred on Research and Development (R&D), mainly to enhance the productivity of firms (Hekkert et al., 2020). The aim of the state in driving the innovation agenda, was to strengthen national systems of innovation for national economic growth (Schot and Steinmueller, 2018). However, missions-oriented innovation centres the notion of public value in its design and aim to create a pathway to different ways of working across the public sector and creating better public value for citizens (OECD, 2022). Conceptualising innovation and development through a “missions” lens has several advantages and offers a range of opportunities. First, the proposed policy solutions (for example, SDGs) to grand challenges require cross-sectoral and multiple-actors collaboration. Second, mission-oriented innovation calls for the transformation of the state and the public sector, and the re-orientation of the state to shape innovation for public value. It is against this background that we invite high quality submissions on public innovation, development, and sustainability for presentation at a two-day conference on Public Innovation, Development and Sustainability. We encourage researchers, academics, public officials, private sector, and civil society to send through submissions. Submissions can address the following topics and more:

- Innovation and inclusive development
  - e-Participation, digital participation, e-democracy
  - Innovation and sustainable technologies
  - Enablers and barriers to public innovation
  - Innovation in local government
  - Innovation in higher education
  - Public-private sector partnership in advancing innovation
  - Digital transformation and public innovation
  - Critical conceptualisation of innovation for development
  - Innovation for sustainability and societal transitions
  - Grassroots innovation
  - Innovation and alternative energy systems.

## PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES



The accepted academic papers will be published in the International Journal of Environmental Management and Safety, in Nigeria or the Town and Regional Planning Journal, residing with the University of Free State. Both are Open Access journals. The Work will be indexed by multiple indexing services, including Elsevier (Scopus, Compendex, and EI) and Clarivate Analytics, formerly the IP & Science business of Thomson Reuters (Web of Science). Both Elsevier and Clarivate Analytics have a review process prior to acceptance.

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT IS 20 MAY 2024.  
ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

## SUBMISSION PROCESS:



1. Submit your abstract through the link provided: [CLICK HERE](#)
2. On submission, you will receive a confirmation email acknowledging receipt.
3. Notifications of acceptance will be sent on or before **31 MAY 2024**.

**FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:**



**PROF. SITHEMBISO L MYENI**

**Physical address:** Office 821, Shepstone Building,  
Howard College Campus,

**Telephone Number:** 031 260 1270

**E-mail address:** Myenis1@ukzn.ac.za

**MS SINETHEMBA ZUNGU**

**Physical address:** Office 818, Shepstone Building,  
Howard College Campus

**Telephone Number:** 031 260 1311

**E-mail address:** ZunguS8@ukzn.ac.za

