UNIVERSITY OF
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COLLEGE OF LAW AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

COLLEGE OF LAW AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES
RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

THEME

TRANSFORMING LAW, GOVERNANCE AND BUSINESS:
RESEARCH FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

9 & 10 OCTOBER 2025

THE RIVERSIDE HOTEL, 10 KENNETH KAUNDA RD, DURBAN NORTH, DURBAN

The Organising Committee of the College of Law and Management Studies takes immense pride in extending an invitation to you for this year's College Research Colloquium. This event is centred around the theme **"Transforming Law, Governance, and Business: Research for Inclusive Growth in the Economy and Sustainable Development".** Our goal is to bring together diverse members of academia, scholars, researchers, senior practitioners, graduates, and postgraduate students from various Schools within the College of Law and Management Studies as well as other UKZN disciplines - and celebrate the research that our College is producing. This event presents a unique opportunity for you to connect with your fellow colleagues. By engaging with these individuals, you will gain insights from their distinctive perspectives and experiences. You may also discover potential collaborations.

IMPORTANT DATES

Closing date for submission of abstracts	**8 August 2025**
Abstract acceptance notification	**29 August 2025**
If you would like to be considered for a prize, you need to submit a full paper as follows:	
Closing date for submission of full papers	**22 September 2025** **Note –** *Late paper submission of full papers will not be accepted.*
Colloquium dates	**9 & 10 October 2025**

INSPIRING GREATNESS

SUB-THEMES

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Positioned at the nexus of law, governance, and business, this sub-theme interrogates how AI-driven solutions are reshaping institutional frameworks, enabling inclusive economic growth, and fostering sustainable development. It also explores the transformative potential of AI in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through interdisciplinary research and innovation.

- Cutting-edge applications of AI in addressing global challenges such as climate change mitigation, equitable healthcare delivery, quality education, and resilient infrastructure.
- Ethical, legal, and governance dimensions of AI deployment, emphasizing the need for responsible innovation that safeguards human rights and promotes social justice.
- AI is not merely as a technological tool, but as a catalyst for systemic transformation in service of people and the planet.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND EQUITY

With the G20's focus on gender equality, this sub-theme interrogates gender mainstreaming and equity interventions in the public and private sector. These include gender mainstreaming of government programmes and services, gender transformation in the workplace, and the implementation of and accountability for employment equity interventions.

- Promotion of gender equity in the public domain, such as attempts by the state to gender mainstream departmental planning, gender responsive budgeting and service delivery.

- Transformative constitutionalism endeavors in relation to pervasive forms of gender inequality and discrimination, including measures to eliminate gender discrimination and inequality, responding to intersectionality of class, race, disability and gender identity.

- Institutional responses to gender-based violence and sexual harassment, as barriers to gender transformation and equality.

DISASTER RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice, climate change and disaster resilience are at the heart of contemporary debates as a global and local phenomenon with heighted interest. This sub-theme includes responsibility for adaptation as paramount, and emphasis on compliance approaches focusing on managing and reducing disaster risks by emphasising shared responsibility as the building blocks for addressing resilience and inclusive development.

- Environmental justice and climate change impact on people, communities and ecosystems. Resilience research, rights and justice as active parts of the transformative climate agenda.

- Practical strategies to create a more resilient society in the age of uncertainty surrounding environmental issues and disasters. Environmental politics, policy and sustainability, including social justice in relation to climate governance.

- Case studies of environmental justice and disaster resilience, including sanctions and forms of empowerment in shaping and supporting communities.

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GOVERNANCE

Anchored in the priorities of the G20, including sustainable growth, fiscal reform, resilient health systems, digital inclusion, and gender equity, this sub-theme critically explores how economic, legal, and governance systems can be transformed to promote shared prosperity. And it invites interdisciplinary contributions that examine how policy, law, public institutions, and business practices can better serve the needs of all citizens.

- Governance and economic strategies that reflect the needs of marginalised populations, including women, youth, and informal workers, and align with global commitments to climate action, digital transformation, and human capital development as outlined by the G20.

- Economic and legal reforms that are essential to achieve inclusive growth that addresses structural inequality, unemployment, and poverty within the South African and broader African context.

- Legal, regulatory, and business mechanisms that support sustainable enterprise growth, including in the informal economy, and ensure that entrepreneurship and innovation are engines of inclusive development.

CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL GOVERNANCE (ESG)

This sub-theme examines the evolving role of corporate citizenship and ESG principles in shaping ethical, sustainable, and inclusive business practices and financial systems. It welcomes interdisciplinary research contributions that explore how ESG metrics, integrated reporting, responsible investment, regulatory frameworks, and stakeholder engagement drive long-term value creation.

- Intersection of ESG with innovation, SME development, public accountability, and inclusive growth strategies.
- Interdisciplinary approaches and practical insights into aligning corporate behavior with developmental outcomes.
- ESG-linked financial instruments, sustainability disclosures, and their impact on capital allocation and firm performance.

LAW, DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE

This sub-theme explores how law responds to historical injustices and advances social and economic equity. It examines the role of legal systems in addressing systemic inequalities and promoting sustainable governance. The focus is on how legal tools can drive meaningful reform in an era of rapid global change. It considers the capacity of law to challenge entrenched power structures and enable inclusive progress.

- Constitutional reform, gender, human rights and family law.
- Corporate regulation, tax justice and criminal law.
- Environmental law, health law, maritime law and international law.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We invite abstracts in MS Word between 300 and 400 words (in English).

Title: A clear and descriptive title that accurately represents the content of the abstract.

Introduction & Objective: A brief introduction that outlines the context and purpose of the research.

Methodology/Approach: An overview of the research methodology, approach, or methods used.

Results/Findings: A summary of the main outcomes, findings, or results of the research.

Discussion/Implications: An interpretation of the results, emphasizing their significance.

Conclusion: A brief conclusion that summarizes the key points and suggests the broader implications.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Should you wish to showcase your presentation in the form of posters, all posters must conform to the following guidelines:

Paper Size: A0 – 841mm x 1189mm **Portrait.**

Layout: A poster should include a clearly visible title at the top centre, followed by author and affiliation information underneath, including e-mail address / addresses.

Graphics: Effective visual display of information is essential in a poster presentation. To achieve this goal, author(s) should concentrate on two or three main points and should prefer graphic displays over text to illustrate their message effectively. Overall, a poster should have more graphics than text. In addition, graphics should be simple to understand, with contrasting colours and no grid lines.

Text: Poster text should be easily readable from a distance of 1-2 metres, and 1.5 or 2 line spacing should be used between each line. It is advised that authors should also pay attention to the following points:

- Headings should be 25 % larger than normal text. Bold or other colours may be used.
- Text should be kept to a minimum, and each block of text should include no more than a few sentences.
- Larger than usual fonts may be used in results and discussion sections to draw attention, while smaller fonts may be preferred for methods.
- Smaller fonts may be used for citations and acknowledgment.
- Suggested font sizes are:
    - Main title: 78 -96 pt (bold, uppercase)
    - Author(s): 72 pt (bold, title case)
    - Affiliation(s): 48 pt (normal, title case)
    - subheading: 36 pt (bold and uppercase)
    - subheading: 30 pt (bold and title case)
    - Body of the text: 24 pt (normal)

Please bring double-sided tape / tape / Prestik to stick your poster up.

Kindly note that a poster presentation is not required. However, poster presenters should be present at their poster during the poster sessions/breaks if possible.

ABSTRACT/FULL PAPER SUBMSSION & REGISTRATION

- **Click** here to submit your abstract or full paper.
- **Click** here to RSVP to attend if you are NOT presenting.

AWARDS

Best Full Paper Award for each CLMS stream - R5000

Best Full Paper Award for other UKZN Disciplines - R5000

ENQUIRIES

Please direct all queries to Emma Lansdell: lansdelle@ukzn.ac.za

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Professor Claire Vermaak (Vermaakc@ukzn.ac.za)
- Professor Mogie Subban (Subbanm@ukzn.ac.za)
- Professor Purshottama Sivanarain Reddy (Reddyp1@ukzn.ac.za)
- Professor Gabriel Kabanda (KabandaG@ukzn.ac.za)
- Professor Isabel Martins (MartinsM@ukzn.ac.za)
- Professor Paul Francois Muzindutsi (MuzindutsiP@ukzn.ac.za)
- Professor Gavin George (Georgeg@ukzn.ac.za)

- Professor Phocenah Nyatanga (Nyatanga@ukzn.ac.za)
- Dr Lorraine Muguto (MugutoL@ukzn.ac.za)
- Dr Sanele Gumede (Gumedes@ukzn.ac.za)
- Dr Nyashadzashe Chiwawa (ChiwawaN@ukzn.ac.za)
- Dr Sheetal Soni (Sonish@ukzn.ac.za)
- Dr Xoliswa Majola (Majolax@ukzn.ac.za)
- Dr Simiso Msomi (Msomis2@ukzn.ac.za)
- Dr Suhayfa Bhamjee (BhamjeeS@ukzn.ac.za)

- Dr Janine Hicks (HicksJ@ukzn.ac.za)
- Dr Sushentha Naidoo (NaidooS4@ukzn.ac.za)
- Ms Nomfundo Mthembu (MthembuN23@ukzn.ac.za)
- Ms Bongeka Myenda (MyendeB@ukzn.ac.za)
- Ms Bongiwe Mokoena (Mokoena@ukzn.ac.za)
- Ms Hazel Langa (Langah@ukzn.ac.za)
- Ms Emma Lansdell (lansdelle@ukzn.ac.za)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION.
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO INVITE COLLEAGUES AND STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE.