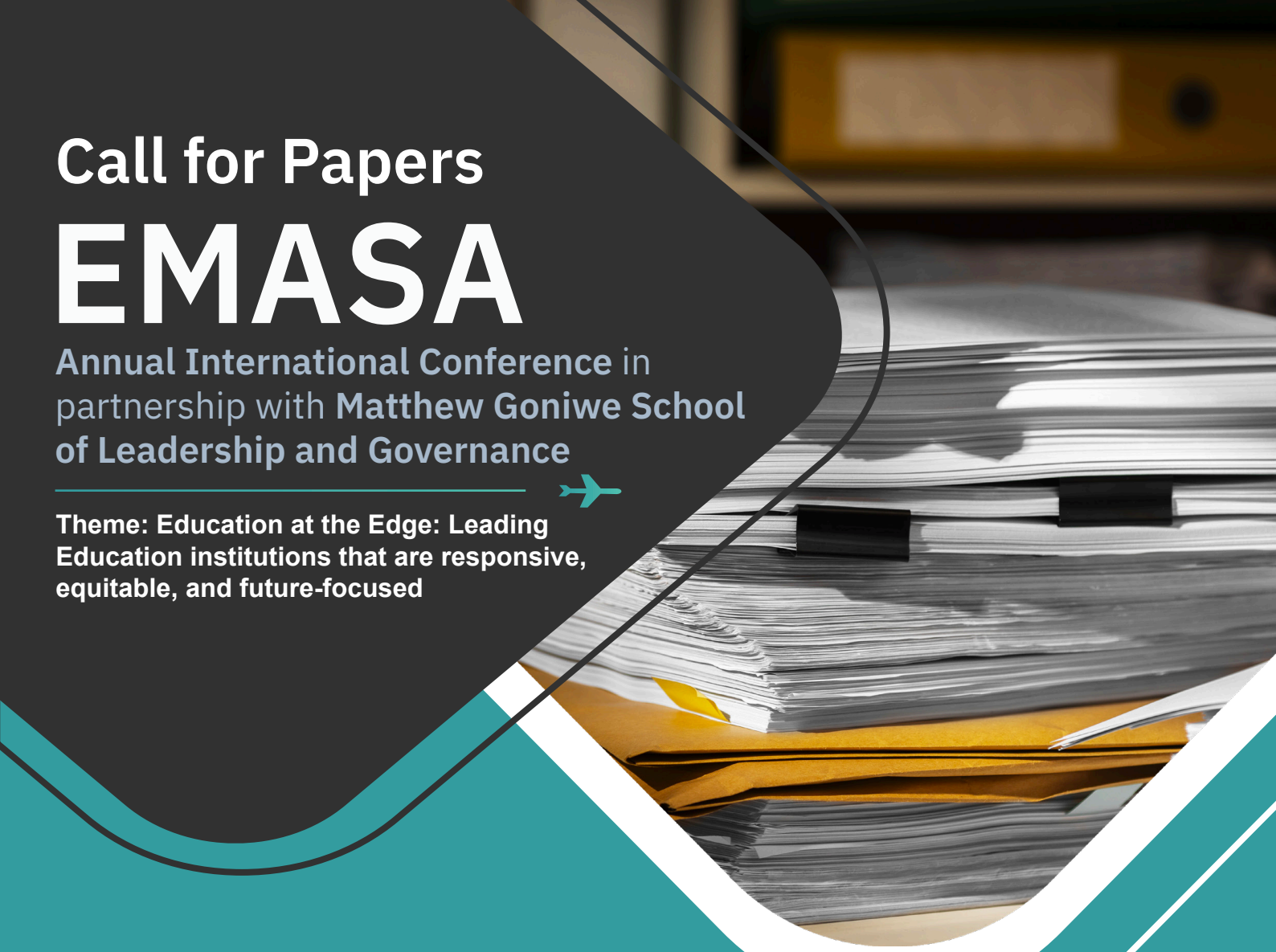
Call for Papers

EMASA

Annual International Conference in partnership with Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance

Theme: Education at the Edge: Leading Education institutions that are responsive, equitable, and future-focused



Conference Theme:

The world of education is evolving at an unprecedented pace. Schools and education institutions are navigating complex and often competing demands, ranging from technological disruption and widening digital divides to persistent inequalities and shifting societal expectations. The rapid rise of Artificial Intelligence is further reshaping how teaching, learning, and assessment are conceived and delivered, challenging traditional models while opening new possibilities for innovation. In this dynamic landscape, resilient, innovative, and future-focused leadership is no longer optional, it is essential. Education at the Edge 2026 brings together global and local thought leaders, policymakers, practitioners, and academics to explore transformative approaches that will shape the future of education. Across contexts, education systems are confronting profound shifts driven by digital transformation, social disruption, and evolving conceptions of teaching and learning. Education now stands at a critical edge where bold leadership, innovation, and adaptability are required to build sustainable, equitable, and future-ready institutions. This conference invites submissions that engage with these challenges and opportunities. We welcome scholarly and practice-based contributions that examine how leadership can strengthen the capacity of schools and education institutions to navigate complexity, advance equity, and reimagine educational futures.

Contributors are encouraged to share research, case studies, policy perspectives, and innovative practices that offer both critical insight and practical application. Through collaborative dialogue, the conference aims to generate bold ideas, actionable strategies, and meaningful partnerships that empower education leaders to respond creatively and effectively in a changing world.

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@EMASA_01
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EMASA Organization

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Proposed Sub-Themes

The EMASA Conference offers an exciting, wide-ranging programme for 2026 and the Organizing Committee eagerly awaits theme related abstracts/proposals for paper presentations, pair or team presentations, and proposals for poster presentations that address ONE of the following conference sub-themes.

- Breaking the Chains: Confronting Inequality in Education
- Reclaiming Education's Role in Social Transformation
- Leadership Under Fire: Governance, Education Leadership, Management, policy Accountability, and the value of Trust.
- Digital Disruption or Digital Divide?
- Strong Beginnings: Reimagining the Foundation Phase for Diverse Learner Needs.
- Collaboration, Policy, and System Change.

IMPORTANT DATES	First call for papers Reminder for first call for papers Closing date for first call Notification of outcome for first call Second/Final call for papers Reminder for final call for papers Closing date for second/final call Notification of outcome for second/final call	10 April 2026 08 May2026 15 May 2026 29 May 2026 05 June 2026 12 June 2026 19 June 2026 03 July 2026
SUBMISSION	Submissions of abstracts must be done electronically (e-mail) in MS Word format. Abstracts must be submitted electronically to abstracts@emasa.org.za and must be entirely original, not previously published, and must not be under concurrent consideration or scheduled for presentation elsewhere.	
TYPES OF CONTRIBUTION	Papers: Short presentations (20 minutes) by individual presenters, allowing time (10 minutes) for discussion Panel discussions: Short introductions to a topic with substantial discussion Pair or team presentations: Longer presentations by more than one presenter, making provision for inputs and questions from the audience, and discussion Poster presentation: Display of a presentation through a poster	
CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES	Contributions will be selected according to the following criteria: Relevance to conference theme/sub-themes Clarity of purpose and method Significance, originality or potential usefulness of the content of the presentation Compliance with technical requirements A maximum of two abstracts per presenter will be considered	

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FULL PAPERS
The complete paper must reach the Conference Coordinator on or before, Monday, 20 July 2026. All papers must be typed on A4 pages, 1.5 line spacing in Arial or Times New Roman, size 12 points and the length must be at least 5000 words.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE!
enters whose papers have not been submitted by Tuesday, 14 July 2026, will be removed from the programme. Presenters who have not registered to attend the conference will be removed from the programme.

PUBLICATION OF PAPERS
Selected papers may be published in EMASA's peer reviewed journal. Presenters, who would like to have their papers considered and refereed for this purpose, should ensure that they comply with the guidelines and conditions set out in the conference website. Please note that the journal is not yet accredited by the DHET. EMASA is working on that process. The published papers may be used as part of the accreditation application process.

REGISTRATION
Kindly note that presenters are required to register for the conference. EMASA extends the invitation to all interested national and international presenters/attendants. All conference fee as well as any other related costing, is the responsibility of each presenter/attendant.
Please note: Presenters who have not registered to attend the conference by Friday, 31 July 2026, will be removed from the programme.

REGISTRATION LINK: https://forms.xxxxxxxx

FEES:
Conference Registration fees: R 5 00.00

BANKING DETAILS:
Account Name: Education Management Association of South Africa
Bank: Standard Bank South Africa
Accounting Number: 01 173 0447
Account Type: Cheque account
Branch Name: Lenasia | Branch Code: 015137
Reference: Your Name & Surname
NB: SEND PROOF OF PAYMENT TO: admin@emasa.org.za

CONTACT DETAIL
Enquiries and submission of abstracts/papers must be directed to the Conference Coordinator at admin@emasa.org.za

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