

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Law Conference: 25-27 September 2024

## Theme:

### **New Winds of Change in Africa: Reflecting on the Challenges of Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and 30 Years of the Post-1994 Democratic Dispensation in South Africa.**

*(A multi-disciplinary account of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Africa, including South Africa's 30 years of democracy: A robust intellectual engagement on Africa's developmental challenges, tribulations and opportunities in the changing world)*

The Annual Spring Law Conference, College of Law, University of South Africa, is a multi-disciplinary project of the University of South Africa incepted to create and provide a convenient platform for robust intellectual engagement on critical and topical issues on law, society, and development, especially on the African Continent. It is essentially a conducive space for academics, thought leaders, activists and practitioners from different sectors of society to come together and share from their research, experience and practices. Spearheaded by the university's College of Law, the Spring Law Conference has already addressed many complex themes relating to various areas of study, including Law, Politics, Criminal Justice, Sociology, Development Studies, International Relations, Labour Relations, History, Heritage, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Economics, the Arts and Culture, Environmental Sciences, Food Security, Social Security, Peace/Conflict Studies, Urban and Regional Planning, Languages, Media Studies and Sports. At the core of this conference lies the pursuit of the University's academic and research excellence.

This edition of the Spring Law Conference takes place in a year that marks 30 years of democracy in South Africa, in which year the citizens would have participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> general elections since 1994. This is the three decades in which the country has been under a Constitutional Democracy anchored on the Bill of Rights which "enshrines the rights of all people in our country and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom", as per Section 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. This affirmation is a far cry from the pre-1994 colonial and apartheid dispensations which were characterized by draconian pieces of legislation that underpinned the segregationist, racist and anti-black nature of the successive whites-only governments which disenfranchised and excluded Black people, the natives of this land, from the affairs of government and meaningful participation in the realms of politics and economy, education, and politics. Black people faced persistent oppression under the apartheid government. Therefore, 1994 was generally seen as year that brought the first "inclusive and democratic" elections in South Africa. This brought with it the hope and promise of freedom for the people of South Africa.

It is in this respect that it is important that the people should review, digest and interpret these 30 years of democracy against the backdrop of this hope and promise of freedom.

Further, it is noteworthy that the 30 years of South Africa's democracy be located within a post-independence Africa that has had its own challenges, tribulations and little opportunities for development and prosperity. The post-independent Africa has been riddled with the challenges of the lingering imperialism, and coloniality (neo-colonialism), conflicts, deaths, corruption, lack of development, poor governance and leadership, military coups, poverty, food insecurity, migration, climate change, natural disasters, crises in education, health, and energy and so forth.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Law Conference will, thus, hold this high-level, open, and robust engagement on the "new winds of change in Africa" and the "30 years of democracy in Azania/South Africa" from a Multi-Inter-Trans disciplinary (MIT) perspective.

Scholars from various disciplines, thought leaders, legal practitioners, politicians, scientists, economists, public servants, civic movement, trade unions, students, traditional leaders, spiritual leaders, specialists in various areas of Law and Criminal Justice, and other professionals are invited to submit abstracts to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Law Conference to be held at Unisa, Muckleneuck campus, Pretoria, on 25-27 September 2024 under the theme: "New Winds of Change in Africa: Reflecting on the Challenges of Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and 30 years of the post-1994 democratic dispensation in South Africa".

#### Abstracts and sub-themes:

Abstracts dealing with any aspect, in the context of the theme, in all areas/disciplines of law and criminal justice should be submitted on or before **31 July 2024**. The following are the possible sub-themes (though papers are not limited to these sub-themes):

1. History, liberation movements and struggles, colonization, imperialism and transformation
2. Education and curriculum transformation
3. African/customary law in the democratic/constitutional state
4. Constitutional law, human rights, role of the courts/judiciary, role of NGO's and university Law Clinics, Chapter 9 institutions
5. Criminal Justice, land invasion and occupations, law enforcement, corrections management, and prisons
6. Peace and conflict studies,
7. Governance and public leadership: corruption, coalition politics
8. Land and economic justice: race, class and gender inequalities in land access/ownership and economic opportunities
9. Capitalism, monopolies and multinational organisations and companies, environmental degradation or development, mining and communities
10. Economy, BEE, entrepreneurship, labour law / labour relations
11. Sustainable livelihoods, urban and regional studies, spatial planning, social, economic, shelter and food/water issues
12. Climate change, environment and energy policy
13. Insurgency, armed conflicts, security and Intelligence, military coups
14. Migration, development studies, trade, BRICS and the AfCFTA,
15. International law and diplomacy – South Africa's interventions
16. Media and society, cybercrime, artificial intelligence/technology, 4IR,

#### The following aspects should be considered in respect of the abstracts:

- Maximum 250 words, Arial, point 12 font size

- Also include five keywords
- Deadline of submission: **31 July 2024**
- Abstracts should be sent to: Adv Unathi Poyo (Email: poyou@unisa.ac.za) AND springlaw@unisa.ac.za
- Enquiries: Adv Unathi Poyo (Email: poyou@unisa.ac.za)

#### Registration conference presentation

The language for abstracts and papers submitted is English. Once an abstract is accepted, the author must send a full paper. Please note that your conference registration will only be finalised after payment of registration fees is received and verified.

Classification	Conference registration fee (Early bird)	Conference registration fee (regular)
<b>Physical Attendance</b>		
Delegate presenting	R2 500,00	R3 000,00
Delegate not presenting	R3 500,00	R4 000,00
	Undergraduate	postgraduate
Students Presenting	FREE	FREE
Student not presenting	R800,00	R1 200,00
<b>Virtual attendance</b>		
Delegate presenting paper	R1 500,00	R2 000,00
Delegate not presenting	R2 000,00	R2 500,00
	undergraduate	Postgraduate
Students presenting	FREE	FREE
Students not presenting	R300,00	R800,00

#### Important dates

**Closing date for submission of abstracts (maximum 250 words): 31 July 2024**

**Abstract outcome notification:** Notification will be given ten (10) days after submission.

**Submission of papers: 23 August 2024**

- **Papers that meet the required standard set by CLAW journals will be published after the conference**

**Due date registration and payment of fees (early bird):** 31 July 2024

**Due date registration and payment of fees (Regular):** 23 August 2024

**Conference date:** 25 – 27 September 2024

**Enquiries:** Unathi Poyo **email:** poyou@unisa.ac.za