

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### THE 2022 UNISA OPEN DISTANCE AND eLEARNING (ODeL) CONFERENCE

Approved for public release

Date: 02 August 2022

One of the most exciting aspects of research on open, distance and e-learning (ODeL) is that there is still so much to be discovered. There is vast scope for enquiring minds to set a research agenda in ODeL and generate findings that can help shape people's futures for the better.

It is against this background that the University of South Africa (Unisa), a world pioneer in the field, will be hosting a deep dive into the intriguing world of ODeL research. The university's Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation Portfolio and the UNESCO Chair on Open and Distance Learning at the institution will be presenting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Unisa Open Distance and eLearning Conference from 03 to 05 August 2022 under the theme *All Things Research in ODeL*.

Speakers and delegates from all over the world will be attending, making the conference an excellent vehicle for networking in the ODeL field. Last year, participants from 49 countries, including 21 African countries, attended the inaugural conference.

Presented virtually, the conference will provide opportunities to share practical and sustainable solutions for research in ODeL post-COVID-19 by highly regarded keynote speakers and panellists hailing from the continent and abroad. The list includes:

- Professor Asha Singh Kanwar, President and Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth of Learning
- Professor Marti Cleveland-Innis, Athabasca University, Canada
- Professor Olaf Zawacki-Richter, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany
- Professor Mpine Makoe, Unisa, South Africa
- Professor Cosmas Maphosa, University of Eswatini, Eswatini
- Professor Nyna Amin, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- Dr Ruth Aluko, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Professor Evrim Baran, Iowa State University, Iowa, United States of America
- Dr Catherine Mkude, Open University of Tanzania, Tanzania
- Professor Santosh Panda, Indira Gandhi National Open University, India
- Professor Paul Henry Gundani, Zimbabwe Open University, Zimbabwe
- Professor Yulia Platonova, Higher School of Economics, Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

This year's topics include the following:

- All Things Research in Open Distance and eLearning
- Researching Community of Inquiry Design in Open, Digital, and Distance Education
- Systematic Reviews in Open, Distance, and Digital Education Research
- Emerging Research Approaches in ODeL
- Balancing Cost, Quality and Access - Time to Revisit the Iron Triangle



- Professional Research Development in ODeL

Preconference workshops on 02 August will address burning issues in the field such as the following:

- Degrees in Whiteness: Higher Education, Open Distance and e-Learning, and the Silencing of Oppression
- The Evolving Environment: Adapt or Die in the Artificial Intelligence Era

The virtual conference will take place as follows:

Date : 03 – 05 August 2022

Time : From 10:00 daily on the above dates

Link : [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIdOigri8tGtVnCMPIUFQagfdJALFUto\\_I](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIdOigri8tGtVnCMPIUFQagfdJALFUto_I)

Website: <https://www.unisa.ac.za/2022OdelConference>

Members of the media are invited to join the virtual conference via the above link. Please note that registration (at no cost) is required via the relevant link provided on the conference website.

**\\Ends.**

#### **Issued by Unisa Media Affairs**

For enquiries, please contact Senior Media Officers Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / [humatm@unisa.ac.za](mailto:humatm@unisa.ac.za) OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / [ratheme@unisa.ac.za](mailto:ratheme@unisa.ac.za)

