

# DIGITAL HUMANITIES (DH) IN PRECARIOUS TIMES

HOSTED BY THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES OF NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY (NWU)  
SOUTH AFRICA (CONFERENCE) AND THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (DHASA) (SUMMER SCHOOL)

MAIN CONFERENCE: 2 TO 4 NOVEMBER 2022

SUMMER SCHOOL: 31 OCTOBER TO 1 NOVEMBER 2022



IT WOULD BE GREAT TO YOU SEE YOU THERE IN PERSON!

## INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Humanities at North-West University, South Africa, is pleased to announce its first conference on *digital humanities (DH) in precarious times*. DH is both an academic field and a community of practice which has been evolving over the past decades. It is characteristically concerned with the application of computational tools and methods to traditional humanities studies such as linguistics, literature, music, history, philosophy, etc. Advances in technology have led to more sophisticated computing power that have ushered in novel DH methodologies. DH involves inter and cross disciplinary collaboration between *many scientists*, that bring together plurality of methodologies, critical and reflexive approaches, and the disruption of traditional practices of doing scientific research that is driven by the use of novel and fast evolving digital technologies.

## AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars from different fields of study in the humanities to report on research and practice related to digital humanities. The development of digital humanities is especially important in a precarious world where technology can enhance living or exclude the disadvantaged. Thus, human skills such as creativity, innovation, adaptability, empathy, integrity and imagination are quintessential to ensure that everyone reaps the advantages of a digital world.

**Important note:** Research submitted for this conference must have an emphasis on either the impact of digitalisation on humanity or how humanity influences the development of digitalisation. Thus, research or practice that only reports on the technical aspects of digitalisation will not be considered.

## SUMMER SCHOOL

In addition to the conference, a summer school will be organized, taking place before the conference. This summer school will consist of several courses covering a range of topics related to DH. The courses are generally accessible to people new to the field of DH. More information on the contents of the summer school will be made available soon.

## CONFIRMED KEY-NOTE SPEAKERS

We are privileged in that the following experts have confirmed their availability as key-note speakers:

### Professor Tapiwa Chagonda



Tapiwa is the Head of the Centre for Data Ethics (CDE) under the Institute of Intelligent Systems (IIS) at the University of Johannesburg and is also the Vice-Chair of UJ's Senate Research Ethics Committee.

### Prof Natasja Holtzhausen



Natasja is the Interim Director of the Centre for the future of work at the University of Pretoria. Her expertise includes: Ethics, corruption, whistle blower protection, organisational studies, work-integrated learning, graduateness, education and e-learning, service/ community based learning, the future of work.

### Mrs Doris Viljoen



Doris is the director of the Institute for Futures Research (IFR) at Stellenbosch Business School, where she endeavours to interpret global as well as local trends and assess their relevance for South Africa and Africa.

## INVITATION TO SUBMIT ABSTRACTS

We invite researchers and practitioners to submit abstracts for virtual and face-to-face paper presentations and posters.

Unfortunately, space is limited and therefore only 200 attendants can be accommodated at the venue for the main conference. However, it would be great to have you there in person!

Abstracts should not be more than 300 words and must include the following detail:

- Title of presentation
- Indicate relevant conference sub-theme
- Titles, surnames and names of authors
- Institution
- Country
- Corresponding author's telephone number and email address
- Type of presentation
  - Virtual paper
  - Face-to-face paper
  - Poster
  - Symposium
- Keywords (not more than 5 key words)
- Any special technical requirements

### **Virtual and face-to-face paper presentations:**

The length of the paper presentations must not be more than 15 minutes. After the presentation, 5 minutes question time will be allowed.

### **Poster presentations:**

Design the poster so that it is easy to read and include some visuals or charts. At the top of the poster the title and authors' names and affiliations must be indicated. The poster size should be A1 international paper size in portrait format. Please do not use foam core or any thick or multi-layered materials directly on the poster boards. Also make sure that the poster can be posted on the boards.

### **Symposium presentation:**

The symposium presentation allows for a project presentation where different researchers within the project can report on specific aspects. No more than three presentations are allowed.

For example, the first presentation can deal with the introduction and problem statement. The second presentation can provide information about the research methodology and the third can address the findings, interpretation, discussion, conclusions and recommendation. This type of conference presentation encourages a multi-, inter- or transdisciplinary approach.

**Important note:** The presentations must address the themes underneath where the emphasis is on either the impact of digitalisation on humanity or how humanity influences the development of digitalisation.

**CLOSING DATE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS: 30 September 2022**

## **MAIN THEME: DIGITAL HUMANITIES IN PRECARIOUS TIMES**

### **SUB-THEMES:**

- a) Digital humanities and public governance
- b) Digital Media and Communication Studies
- c) Digitization, automation and artificial intelligence (AI) – An ethical dilemma for social and political humanities, but also for philosophy
- d) Digital humanities and creative capital
- e) Digital humanities and linguistics
- f) Digital humanities and literature
- g) Digital humanities and language technology
- h) Digital humanities and music
- i) Population Dynamics during changing times
- j) Digitalisation: From precarity and precariousness to capability
- k) Digitalisation: inclusive or exclusive

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2022



## CONFERENCE DETAILS

**CONFERENCE VENUE:** RIVERSIDE SUN HOTEL, VANDERBIJLPARK, SOUTH AFRICA

[Riverside Sun | Hotel Resort on The Vaal, Vanderbijlpark \(southernsun.com\)](https://southernsun.com)

**ONLINE REGISTRATION and SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS:** [Digital Humanities in Precarious Times | humanities.nwu.ac.za](https://humanities.nwu.ac.za)

### COSTS:

Summer school: **R500.00**

Main conference:

- Virtual fees: **R2000**
- Full 3 day conference fees: **R3500**
- Day fees: **R1200**
- Student fees (Registered Honours, Masters and Doctoral students):
  - Virtual fees: **R1500**
  - Full 3 day conference fees: **R3000**
  - Day fees: **R750**

**Conference participants need to reserve their own accommodation.**

**ACCOMMODATION:** Riverside Sun Hotel and guest houses

[Riverside Sun | Hotel Resort on The Vaal, Vanderbijlpark \(southernsun.com\)](https://southernsun.com)

[Vanderbijlpark Guest Houses \(afriestay.com\)](https://afriestay.com)

For more information regarding conference registration, please contact Mrs Marinda Malan at [25788477@g.nwu.ac.za](mailto:25788477@g.nwu.ac.za)

For more information related to abstracts and abstract submissions, please contact Mrs Daleen Claasens at [10328327@g.nwu.ac.za](mailto:10328327@g.nwu.ac.za)