

# 8th Edition Research Seminar



## on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 and African Union (AU) Agenda 2063

**Theme:** A focus on Africa's state fragility and resilience to exogenous shocks and disasters - sustainability, growth, and development imperatives

**Date: 25 - 27 June 2024 | Hosted by: University of South Africa**



AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND  
MANAGEMENT (AAPAM)



ASSOCIATION AFRICAINE POUR  
L'ADMINISTRATION PUBLIQUE  
ET LE MANAGEMENT (AAAPM)



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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

State capacity and capability building is central to the attainment of the Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); particularly as it relates to Agenda 2063 Aspiration 3 on governance, and SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions. There is evidently a link between the SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions, and African Union 2063 Aspiration 3 on governance, suggesting that strong institutions and good governance are essential for African countries to achieve their development goals. Good governance and strong institutions are consequently key factors in mitigating state fragility, and they contribute to the strengthening of state resilience to exogenous shocks and disasters.

As a founder member of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in March 2003, South Africa conducted its Second-Generation Country Review in 2022, and became the first country to be peer reviewed on the fifth thematic area of “state resilience to shocks and disasters”.

In the context of governance dimension, the Continental APRM questionnaire (2021) comprehensively describes state resilience as follows: “... *state resilience and preparedness refer to the readiness of the political leadership and public institutions to mobilise, organise, coordinate, and manage disasters within the framework of public-private partnerships and international cooperation.*” Thus, an adequate level of preparedness implies dynamic responsive systems at the intersection of societies, ecosystems, natural hazards, regional and global risks. This includes the enhancement of early warning systems and promotion of adaptive capacity at local and national government levels.

Consequently, a theme focusing on Africa’s state fragility and resilience to exogenous shocks and disasters has been brought into sharp focus with researchers and practitioners keen to understand the implications of state resilience and how African countries should manage and mitigate state fragility and resilience to exogenous shocks and disasters that arise from global incidents, from a multi-dimensional viewpoint. This theme was espoused for the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Research Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 and African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, to be hosted by the University of South Africa (Unisa) from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The focus on state fragility and resilience to shocks and disasters within the sphere of public administration and governance is a multifaceted and proactive endeavour that necessitates a holistic view of governance: one that embraces risk management, adaptability, collaborative networks, leadership, technological empowerment, and workforce well-being. Such an

endeavour would include the readiness of political leadership and public institutions to mobilise, organise, coordinate and manage disasters within the framework of public-private partnerships and international cooperation. This integrated approach is foundational for public institutions aiming not only to navigate the complexities of contemporary crises but also to emerge from these challenges more fortified, through innovative and intentionally proactive approaches.

A Doctoral Colloquium is therefore considered a valuable addition to the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of Research Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and African Union Agenda 2063 being organised by the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA, South Africa), the University of South Africa (UNISA), the University of Stellenbosch, and the University of Pretoria.

## **DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM – GENERAL INFORMATION**

Submissions are invited for a Doctoral Colloquium that will be presented parallel to the 8th Edition of Research Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and African Union Agenda 2063. The theme of the Conference is ‘A focus on Africa’s state fragility and resilience to exogenous shocks and disasters – sustainability, growth, and development imperatives’.

We invite contributions from PhD candidates that are currently engaged in any aspect of Africa's susceptibility to external shocks and disasters as well as its ability to withstand them and recover in a way that galvanises sustainable growth and economic development.

The Doctoral Colloquium will allow students to discuss their research in a supportive atmosphere with a panel of distinguished social scientists and peers. Participating doctoral students are expected to present their research and receive feedback from leading scholars and technical experts, especially fresh ideas, and perspectives on the academic discourse. More importantly, participants will have the opportunity to interact closely with leading African experts on issues relating to state resilience and growth imperatives.

## **SUBMISSIONS**

Applicants to the Doctoral Colloquium should submit:

- A four-page extended abstract describing their PhD research, including:

- the problem being addressed, research questions, aim and objectives, and the research design and methodology (it is not required from students to have started to collect or analyse data yet); and
- a description of the progress to date.

•The four-page limit does not include references. The write-up should be in a proposal format to facilitate feedback from the panelists as to the strength of the research problem and the suitability of the research design and methodology. The structure should follow the format used by most universities for a thesis proposal, namely an Introduction, Background information, Research problem, Research questions, Aim and objectives, Preliminary literature review, Research design and methodology, Preliminary/anticipated results and Intended contributions.

•The extended abstract should have a single author – the student submitting the entry.

•In a separate section, questions for the panel and feedback expects from the panel should be identified clearly.

Student submissions will be reviewed by the Colloquium Chairs. Selections will be made based on contribution to the Colloquium goals and strength of the research contribution. Accepted submissions will remain confidential.

## **FORMAT**

Only selected applicants will be allowed to participate in the Colloquium and those selected will be expected to attend the entire Seminar.

The Colloquium will consist of parallel sessions of student presentations and general discussions with expert panellists. Presentations and roundtable discussion sessions will allow student participants the opportunity to interact with the panellists to foster academic discourse and engagement.

## **TARGET PARTICIPANTS**

The Doctoral Colloquium strongly commits to achieving diversity among the student participants, including diversity across research groups and geographical areas within Africa or of African descent.

The Colloquium is designed to engage a diverse and dynamic group of students who are at the forefront of research about Africa's resilient-building efforts to external shocks and disasters across various sectors, especially those with growth and development components.

All research topics suitable for the main programme of the 8th Edition of Research Seminar on SDGs 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063 are appropriate for the Doctoral Colloquium.

PhD students at all phases of progression are welcome to participate in the Colloquium.

## **FUNDING**

Funding is made available to cover a return flight ticket and accommodation during the duration of the seminar (25 to 27 June, 2024) for successful PhD colloquium participants.

## **WORKING LANGUAGE**

The working language shall be English.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Due date</b>
<b>Submission of four-page extended abstract</b>	29 March 2024
<b>Notification of acceptance to students, including detail about required revisions</b>	Notification will be done on an ongoing basis, and

Task	Due date
	will be concluded by 09 April 2024
<b>Submission of final version of the extended abstract</b>	16 April 2024
<b>E-mailing slides for the PhD Colloquium presentation in PPT. The presentation should be an 8-minute pitch followed by a 2-minute Q&amp;A.</b>	30 April 2024
<b>Doctoral Colloquium</b>	25 June 2024
<b>Conference: 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Research Seminar</b>	25 to 27 June 2024

## HOW DO I APPLY TO ATTEND?

Submit a four-page extended abstract by e-mail in Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF to:

[researchseminar@unisa.ac.za](mailto:researchseminar@unisa.ac.za)

IMPORTANT Please include in the e-mail with your submission the following information:

- Full name and surname
- University/institution of affiliation
- E-mail address

## REGISTRATION LINK

<https://www.aapam.org/registration/#id=151&cid=1076&wid=2301>

## VENUE

The Colloquium will be held at the University of South Africa (Unisa):

Kgorong Centre and other facilities located within the Muckleneuk Campus of the university - 330 Preller St, Groenkloof, Pretoria, South Africa.

## **VISA REQUIREMENTS**

Delegates are expected to make their visa arrangements timeously. For more information, kindly see the information at the official Seminar website.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

For general queries, please contact:

- Mashego Kagiso: [mashek@unisa.ac.za](mailto:mashek@unisa.ac.za)
- Ms Mpho Nemukondeni: [nemukmg@unisa.ac.za](mailto:nemukmg@unisa.ac.za)

For visa-related and registration queries, please contact:

- The Programs Officer: Ms Julie Muia: [aapam@aapam.org](mailto:aapam@aapam.org)
- Research colloquium coordinator: [researchseminar@unisa.ac.za](mailto:researchseminar@unisa.ac.za)

## **REFERENCES**

African Union. 2021. African Peer Review Self-Assessment Questionnaire, Midrand.

African Union. 2022. African Peer Review Mechanism, Report on South Africa's 2nd Generation Country Review, Midrand.

Republic of South Africa. 2021. African Peer Review Mechanism, Self-Assessment Report on South Africa's 2nd Generation Country Review. Department of Public Service and Administration.