



UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND

A NODE FOR AFRICAN THOUGHT

4th INTERNATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES CONFERENCE

PHYSICAL AND ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**Theme: Reclaiming Human Rights? Decolonising
Development For A Just Future**

Date: 02 - 03 July 2025 | **Time:** 08:00 -16:00

Venue: Block A, University of Zululand - Richards Bay Campus

Abstract Submission Deadline:

First call: 28 March 2025 - 25 April 2025 | Second call: 26 April 2025 - 23 May 2025

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Conference Theme: **Reclaiming Human Rights? Decolonising Development for a Just Future.**

The Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zululand, invites you to submit your abstracts for the **4th International Anthropology and Development Studies Conference in 2025.**

For all (existing) colonial structures, there have constantly been anti- and decolonial counterforces. However, coloniality has always found a way to reconfigure itself, shifting from rigid violence to more symbolic violence expressed through Human Rights in developing countries. With its legacies of colonial structures, coloniality strengthens its matrix of power through the imposition of Western human rights frameworks on African societies which has led to tensions between local and global governance mechanisms.

The theme **Reclaiming Human Rights? Decolonising Development for a Just Future**, seeks to inspire conversations with academics, communities, activists, and administrators who challenge existing frameworks, centre African perspectives, critically engage with Western epistemologies, and contribute to unmasking and decolonising human rights.

The 2025 International Anthropology and Development Studies Conference will interrogate how Human Rights serve as symbolic violence to perpetuate tensions between local and global governance. Thus, we invite papers and poster presentations from community activists, academics, civil society, and governance viewpoints.



Themes to be covered in the conference may include, but are not limited to:

- The implications of human rights on development in Africa?
- Dismantling the constitution of human rights from decolonial perspectives.
- Reflection on the Declaration of Universal Human Rights
- Indigenous knowledge systems and building an inclusive society
- Politics of political correctness
- Human Rights in the Sustainable Development Goals
- G20 in South Africa, 2025
- Afrocentric reflections on human rights.
- Coloniality of multilateral organisations such as the United Nations
- Human rights' exploitation of local communities.
- African Anthropology's roles/contributions in reimagining society.
- African Development Studies' reflections on Human Rights and Inclusivity
- Critiques on the universality of human rights
- Impacts of MDGs and SDGs on local cultures
- Liberation history and human rights
- African ethics and human rights
- Non-western universities and human rights
- Human rights and political correctness
- Politics of human rights
- The post-colonial state's role(s) in oppression
- Human rights and rights of people with disabilities
- Impacts of land expropriation Act in South Africa
- Academic freedom
- Critical studies on Human Rights

Submission guidelines:

- i. All proposals should align with the conference theme or sub-themes.
- ii. Proposals must not be longer than 300 words.

Key Dates

a. **First call:** 28 March 2025 – 25 April 2025

b. Second call: 26 April 2025 – 23 May 2025

3. Pre-Conference Workshop: 1 July 2025

4. For full paper submissions: 17-20 June 2025

1. Registration fee:

a. Academic: R3000

b. Students: R1500

c. Community-Based Organisations and Independent Researchers: R1500

d. Registration for virtual presentation/attendance: R1500

2. Registration closing date for Conference: 16 June 2025

3. Physical Venue: Block A, University of Zululand Richards Bay Campus

For submissions or inquiries, email the organising team at:

ADSC@unizulu.ac.za or PhahladiraL@unizulu.ac.za

Conference website: <https://adsc.unizulu.ac.za/>


We look forward to your participation in this important conversation.

Submit your proposal today!




Please refer to details on the website.

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