



SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY IS PROUD TO HOST THE
**40th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORY TEACHING (SASHT)**

30 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2026

CONFERENCE THEME:
Teaching, Learning, and Remembering the 1976 Soweto Uprising 50 Years



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

THE SASHT AND AHE-AFRIKA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY, 2ND OCTOBER 2026, HOSTED BY SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY IN KIMBERLEY.

On 16 June 1976, the streets of Soweto and many parts of South Africa became classrooms of a different kind. When learners marched against the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction, they challenged not merely a language policy, but the entire architecture of an education system designed to reproduce their subjugation. Fifty years on, the questions the Uprising raised: whose knowledge, whose language, and whose history matters? remain as urgent as ever in South Africa's classrooms, curricula, and scholarship on history education.

There is something profoundly fitting about hosting this milestone conference at Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley. Named after Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje, journalist, intellectual, activist, and co-founder of the South African Native National Congress, this institution stands on terrain shaped by colonialism, dispossession, and African resistance. The 40th SASHT conference, therefore, invites history teachers, researchers, schoolteachers, heritage practitioners, postgraduate students, and curriculum developers to gather in Kimberley for rigorous and engaged scholarly exchange on teaching, learning, and remembering the 1976 Soweto Uprising 50 years on.

CONFERENCE THEME

Teaching, Learning, and Remembering the 1976 Soweto Uprising 50 Years

Sub-themes

Submissions may engage with any of the following sub-themes as they relate to the 1976 Soweto Uprising and its 50th commemoration. The list is illustrative, not exhaustive. Open papers on history education themes not covered below are also welcome.

- Curriculum, policy, and epistemic justice
- Pedagogy, memory, and historical consciousness
- Language, power, and decolonisation
- Youth agency, student movements, and protest history
- Public history, heritage, and commemoration
- Archives, sources, and digital humanities
- Teacher education and professional development
- Living memories, oral histories, and the ethics of testimony
- Assessment, progression, and historical thinking
- Northern Cape, Kimberley, and marginalised regional histories
- Open submissions in history education
- Discourses around the revised history curriculum in South Africa

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

- ◇ Use **MS-Word, Arial 11 pt font, 1.5 spacing**.
- ◇ An abstract of **300-350 words**, including keywords or phrases.
- ◇ Identification of the relevant theme
- ◇ Full **contact details and institutional affiliation of authors** must be given.
- ◇ For symposia, submit a 200-word panel rationale alongside individual abstracts v Email your abstracts to raymond.fru@spu.ac.za and sitholef331@gmail.com
- ◇ Deadline for abstract submissions is **01 July 2026**. Confirmation of abstract acceptance will be provided continuously up to **20 July 2026**.

PAPER, WORKSHOP, AND POSTER GUIDELINES

Individual Paper Presentations (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussion)

Empirical, theoretical, or practice-informed papers on any sub-theme or open history education topic.

Symposia / Panel Discussions (60–90 minutes)

Organised panels of 3–4 related presentations with a discussant

A panel discussion that speaks to the proposed new history curriculum will be welcomed

Poster Presentations: Visual presentations are particularly suitable for postgraduate students and early-career researchers. Posters will be displayed throughout the conference and formally presented during a dedicated session.

Practical / Workshop Sessions (45–60 minutes)

Hands-on sessions demonstrating classroom-tested materials, source-based tasks, or digital history tools. Workshop leaders should indicate the required room setup and the maximum number of participants.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Category	Fee (ZAR)
Full-time university academics	R3000
School teachers, NGO staff, museum practitioners, members of the public	R1000
Postgraduate students and pre-service teachers	R1000

Registration fees cover conference access and refreshments. Travel and accommodation are for the participants' own account. A list of recommended accommodation in Kimberley will be circulated with the acceptance notification.

PAYMENT DETAILS

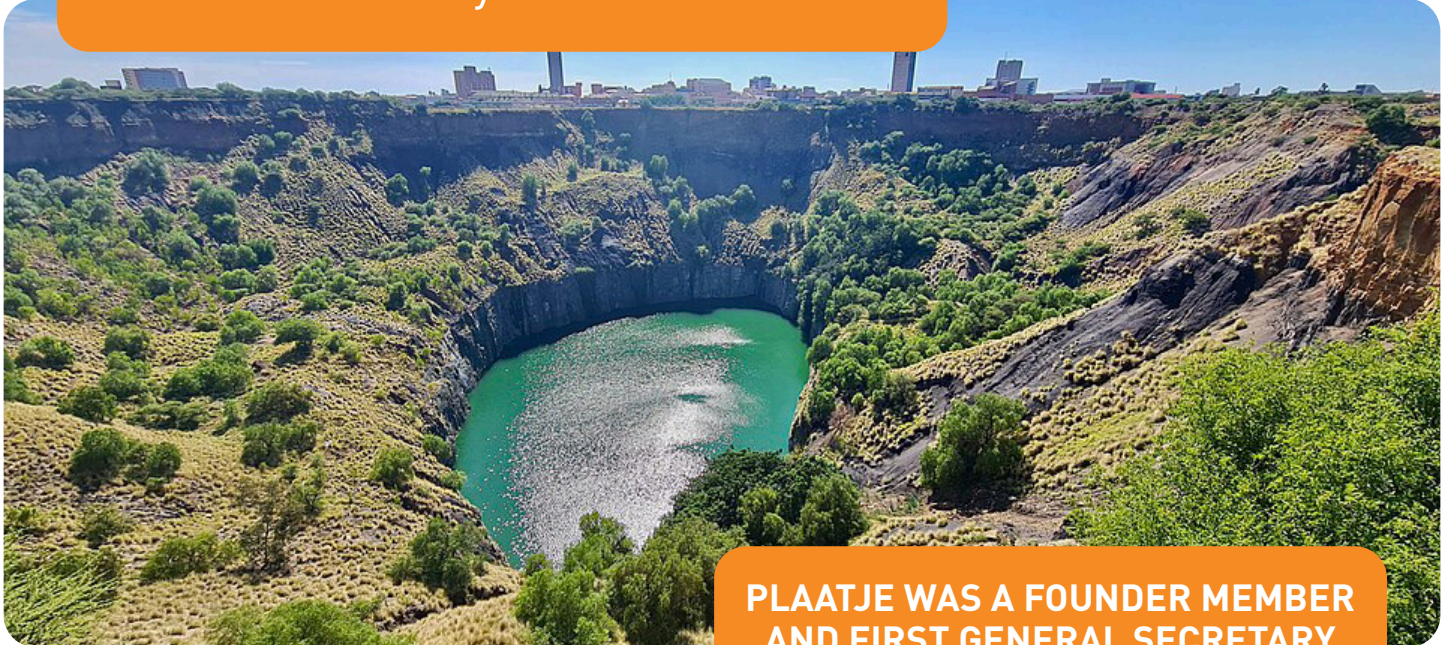
Account Name: South African Society for History Teaching Account Number: 62921440632 Bank: First National Bank | Branch: New Park | Branch Code: 231002 | Swift: FIRNZAJJ

Please use your full name and surname as the payment reference. Email your PoP to the conference organising committee

NOTE: CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE BY 20 AUGUST 2026.

The Big Hole is a former diamond mine located in Kimberley.

It is famous for being the largest hole excavated by hand in the world



PLAATJE WAS A FOUNDER MEMBER AND FIRST GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE NATIONAL CONGRESS (SANNC), WHICH BECAME THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)



The Sol Plaatje local municipality, which includes the city of Kimberley, is named after him, as is the Sol Plaatje University in this city, which opened its doors in 2014

**Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje
(9 October 1876 – 19 June 1932)
was a South African intellectual, journalist,
linguist, politician, translator and writer**