2nd Call for Papers
Oral History Association of South Africa
16th Annual National Conference
Mpumalanga Province: Steve Tshwete Banquet Hall, Middleburg
08 – 11 October 2019

Collective Memories, Active Citizenship and Alternative voices: Reflections on Democracy in Africa

This 16th conference of the Oral History Association of South Africa is hosted during the year where signs that modern democracy in Africa is maturing are visible. During the course of 2019 about 23 African states will hosts elections, while South Africa, the last country to achieve freedom, celebrates 25 years of democracy. One can argue that the democratic culture has created a platform for local people to reconsider the relevance of their collective memories and use such as tools of social cohesion. As such, communities are becoming more involved in social justice movements and the construction of new interpretations of the state and its relationship with the construction of notions of citizenship. The question of whose voices become prominent in the social discourse and how alternative voices are accommodated in the construction of nationhood have also featured prominently. Oral history continues to be used as a tool of revisiting the past, reconstructing obliterated identities and a voice of alternative narratives. This year’s theme seeks to challenge practitioners to engage with the notion of celebrations as narratives of collective memories. It further seeks to explore how oral history has become a tool to reposition social discourses and reconceptualise historical texts and traditions.

Oral history practitioners are invited to contribute papers that focus on any of the following sub-themes:

- New methodologies of oral history
- Limits and limitations of oral history
- Power, voices and the oral history interview
- Teaching oral history or history: New perspectives
- Archiving oral history
- The role of oral history in libraries, museums, heritage sites and tourism
• Oral history and the National Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route
• Uncharted and unspoken histories of the liberation struggle
• Forced removals and dispossession: contested memories
• Oral history and oral traditions as sources of history
• Oral history and the theatrical performance of the past
• The practice of oral history in state bureaucratic machinery
• Women and oral history
• Labour struggle, women and oral history
• Youth and oral history
• Oral history and local histories
• Oral history and alternative voices
• Indigenous knowledge, leadership and Chieftaincy
• Labour struggles

The conference committee welcomes broad and creative interpretations of the conference theme and its sub-themes. We especially encourage presenters to think about innovative delivery models including dramatic performance, interactive sessions, panel discussions and the use of digital media/ In addition, we welcome proposal from the diverse communities that carry out oral history work – academics, independent scholars, archivists, activists, librarians, museum practitioners, educators, community historians, film makers, artists, creative writers, and others whose work relates to this year’s conference theme. Contributions must be based on original work and have a clear focus on oral history.

The envisaged end-product of the conference will be a publication of the proceedings. All papers accepted for presentations must be submitted to the organising committee.

NB: THIS IS AN ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE: PAPERS DELIVERED MUST BE BASED ON ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH, AND NOT ONLY ON PUBLISHED SOURCES

If you are interested, please send us a short proposal including:

1. an abstract of your paper or case study report (100-300 words)
2. the relevant conference sub theme
3. a short biography of yourself (50-100 words)
4. your contact information (name and surname, affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, phone and fax numbers)

The duration of presentation will not exceed twenty (20) minutes and this will be followed by ten (10) minutes for discussion
It is our intention to publish refereed conference proceedings. The papers shall not be longer than 5000 words. It is a requirement that finished papers be submitted by 30 September 2019 to Ms Brenda Kotze on ohasaexco@gmail.com.

Deadline for the final submission of proposals/abstracts is on or before 21 June 2019 and the conference organising committee will confirm acceptance during the due course.

Proposal to be submitted to: ohasaexco@gmail.com

For further enquiries please contact:
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