



# Human Development & Capability Association

## Call for Papers

**Extended Proposal Submission Deadline: March 17, 2017**

### HDCA 2017 Conference

## “Challenging Inequalities: Human Development and Social Change”

**Main Conference, September 6-8, 2017  
Cape Town, South Africa**

Hosted by  
University of Cape Town



with University of the Free State, University of the Western Cape and the Human Sciences  
Research Council

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



## **Conference theme**

Economic inequality is bad for political equality and political freedoms which are key conditions for the expansion and securing of human capabilities and the building of decent and inclusive societies. The conference theme explores this as a dynamic challenge of human development and social change, together with the potential of the capability approach to offer a powerful normative framework to advance justice in unequal societies. The capability approach is now a widely-used framework for evaluating equality and justice in terms of human well-being, freedom, and development. It has been developed partly because traditional approaches focusing only on income or utility do not adequately capture the diverse, plural, and multidimensional nature of human lives and development experiences, nor provide the informational basis of justice in policy making and implementation. As a concept originally developed by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum, capability works to understand and explain inequalities and injustices in the social, political, economic and historical arrangements that shape human experiences, and the valuable functionings that people have reason to choose for flourishing lives.

The capabilities emphasis on plural human freedoms allows us both to examine the experiences of real lives but also to develop methodologies to aggregate and index multiple aspects of human development and capabilities across significant in/equality dimensions (for example, youth, cities, education and social cohesion), viewed and researched from multiple disciplinary perspectives. One of the main goals of the HDCA 2017 Conference will be to assemble and compare a variety of research approaches - theoretical, conceptual, philosophical, methodological, empirical - in global South and global North contexts in order to shed light on the benefits of, and challenges human development and capability expansion confronts.

By selecting ‘challenging inequalities’ and also ‘social change’ as an overall theme for the HDCA 2017 Conference, we want to explore the normative and empirical power and scope of the capability approach to describe, assess, and promote change in the direction of human development and social justice in an increasingly globalized world where people’s circumstances and values are vastly different and in which inequality is rising within and across countries.

The capability approach itself is evolving and open to extensions, modifications, criticisms, and revisions. We would like to invite scholars, policy-makers, practitioners, and students who are working at the frontiers of this expanding field of research. Anyone new to HDCA is of course more than welcome, as we appreciate diversity of participants in terms of research topics and methods, professions, and regions.

This conference is being held at a key and historic moment for the continent and for South Africa – economically, socially and politically – offering the possibility to bring the approach to the attention of wider audiences of researchers, young scholars, practitioners, and policy makers and brokers. It will be an exciting opportunity for all of us to meet for the first time on the African continent.

## Conference Aims and Topics

The HDCA conference aims to bring together people from all over the world and from different disciplines and fields interested in the capability approach and human development. Papers on the 2017 conference theme ‘Challenging Inequalities: Human Development and Social Change’ may explore, amongst others, the following topics:

- Inequalities, capability indexes and lists of functionings
- Just societies, inequalities and agency freedoms: operationalising a capabilities approach
- Intergenerational inequalities and challenges for social change
- Horizontal inequalities: for example, race, gender, social class, indigenous groups
- Intersectionality and multidimensional inequalities
- The decolonial turn – knowledge production across unequal global contexts –imagining alternatives in education and elsewhere
- Educating for social change and overcoming inequalities: promoting critical reflexivity amongst staff and students; student movements for change; youth agency; the challenge of change in racialized societies; migrant and refugee participation in education
- Empowerment for social change
- Human security, human rights and capabilities
- Health, disability and inequalities: inclusive approaches to redress
- Inequalities, the labour market and the workplace: measuring changes in capabilities
- Economic policies: imagining alternatives as catalysts for social change and well-being
- Sustainable development - imagining and living alternatives; building interdisciplinary capabilities
- Philosophical and ethical foundations and implications of the capability approach related to a variety of methods (e.g. participatory, quantitative, qualitative, mixed)
- Methodological issues in operationalizing the capability approach
- Capability measurement and empirical analysis
- Policy analysis and evaluation by reference to capabilities and agency

In addition to papers on the conference theme, papers on all core HDCA themes (as well as Thematic Group interests not mentioned above) are welcome, including but not limited to:

- Philosophical and ethical foundations and implications of the capability approach
- Methodological issues in operationalizing the capability approach
- Capability measurement and empirical analysis
- Human rights and development
- Policy analysis and evaluation by reference to capabilities and agency

## Keynote Speakers

Martha Nussbaum (University of Chicago)

Ifeanyi Menkiti (Wellesley College) Martha Nussbaum lecture

Thandika Mkandawire (London School of Economics) Amartya Sen lecture (tbc)

Tereza Campello, (former Minister of Social Development and Hunger Eradication, Brazil),

Mahbub ul Haq lecture

## Programme Committee

Murray Leibbrandt, University of Cape Town (Conference Chair)

Judy Favish, University of Cape Town (Conference Manager)

Melanie Walker (University of the Free State)

Vivienne Bozalek (University of the Western Cape)

Crain Soudien (Human Sciences Research Council)

Ravi Kanbur (Cornell University)

Ingrid Robeyns (Utrecht University)

Julian Culp (Goethe University of Frankfurt)

Zina Nimeh (Maastricht University)

## Conference Structure

The main conference will be preceded by a Summer School for doctoral students and by pre-conference workshops for which proposals can be submitted to the conference organizers via one of the HDCA Thematic group co-ordinators.

In the main conference, in addition to keynote lectures and other plenaries, the conference will accommodate six types of session. Please note that you may only present in one session of whatever format, although more than one proposal may be submitted by you.

### Please also note the following:

1. Since we expect a large number of submissions for this meeting in Cape Town, **each person is limited to only one individual paper presentation and participation in only one panel presentation, roundtable, poster etc.** Thus each person may only make two submissions and these must be to different types of sessions (e.g. full paper and thematic panel)
  2. The **same proposal may not be submitted more than once** to different kinds of session, for example, full paper, poster and young scholar.
  3. You will be required to identify the broad theme for your proposal to enable us to allocate it to reviewers, for example, education or health.
  4. For panel proposals, if a presenter withdraws then the panel organisers may not substitute a non-reviewed paper.
- **Full academic paper sessions**, for which single papers can be submitted. They will be presented in a session with 2 or 3 research papers (25 minutes per paper including discussion/questions). Please send an abstract of 500-1000 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords.
  - **Thematic panel sessions** are submitted as a whole under a single theme that is related to this conference's theme or to the theme of one or more of the HDCA's thematic groups. Panel proposals are welcome from the thematic group coordinators as well as from people unaffiliated with the thematic groups. People are encouraged to develop

coherent panels with a maximum of three papers, while thematic groups are encouraged to develop themes that run through the whole conference. Each panel must have a coordinator who submits a cohesive abstract for the panel of up to 1000 words with 3-5 keywords. In addition, an abstract of 500-1000 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords, should accompany each of the component papers of the proposed panel. The coordinator will act as a contact person for the panel session and the other panel presenters. Note that the standards for evaluating panels will be the same as for the full academic papers. If not all the papers in the proposed panel session are evaluated favorably, then the papers will be regarded as individual papers and may be allocated to other sessions.

- **Author meets critics sessions** in which an author presents a summary of a recent book or large piece of research. Each author should send a 500word synopsis of his or her book/ research project with 3-5 keywords and include the names of one to two confirmed discussants.
- **Roundtables may be for individual paper slots or for stakeholder panels.** *The individual slots are a new feature and for 2017 only a small number will be accepted.* These individual roundtables are intended to encourage more detailed discussion of a single presentation. In addition, roundtables may also be used to engage policy makers or governmental stakeholders or to arrange discussions with practitioners about practical approaches to dealing with the problems that are the focus of the conference. For both kinds of submissions please send an abstract of 500 - 1000 words, a list of 3 -5 keywords, and lists stakeholder participants (if relevant), indicating whether their participation is confirmed.
- **Poster presentation sessions** for which dedicated time slots will be available in the program, so that authors can clarify their poster to the circulating audience. Posters could present a research project, some field-work done, a case study, or an early-stage research proposal. Please send an abstract of 300-600 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords.
- **Young scholar meets senior scholar sessions** in which graduate students will present their research plan or work in progress (proposals should be 500-1000 words, with 3-5 keywords). HDCA Fellows will provide feedback and chair the discussion.

You will need to indicate clearly in your proposal under which category you wish it be considered.

The **main criteria for evaluating the various kinds of submissions** will be: novelty/originality; clarity and structure; significance/impact/relevance to/engagement with the capability approach and/or human development; methodology and methods; and, fit with the conference theme.

While the papers may come from any discipline and may be theoretical, applied, or policy-based, **every paper must engage with, apply, extend, criticize, or offer insights specifically relevant to the capability approach and/or the human development paradigm.**

## **Kuklys Prize for best paper from a graduate student**

At the conference, the HDCA will award the annual *Wiebke Kuklys Prize* for the best paper presented by a graduate student. All graduate students who would not have been awarded their degree before 1st of September 2017 and are presenting a paper at the 2017 HDCA conference **under their sole authorship** are eligible to be considered for this prize. If you wish your paper to be considered for the prize, this must be indicated on the submission

form.

Please note: if you are competing for this prize, **the full paper must be submitted by 15th of July 2017**. The winner of the 2017 Wiebke Kuklys Prize will be awarded a cash amount with the aim of contributing to the student's graduate work, by allowing her/him to buy equipment or books, or to attend a conference. The name of the winner will be announced at the closing plenary session of the conference, which the author must attend.

## **HDCA Summer School**

The HDCA will be holding a two-day summer school for graduate students working with the capability approach on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 prior to the annual conference. Senior HDCA academics will present the basics as well as cutting edge topics of the capability approach. There will also be opportunities to get group feedback on research projects. Further details will follow in due course.

## **HDCA Journal**

We encourage papers presented at the conference to be submitted for publication in the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*. This HDCA-owned journal is a peer reviewed multi-disciplinary journal for people-centered development. See the journal webpage for more information on the journal and on how to submit your paper.

## **Conference Registration, Fees & Scholarships**

On-line conference registration will open around April 2017. Students and scholars from low- and mid-income countries will pay a significantly reduced registration fee, as the following schedule indicates:

- Professional, high-income country, early (\$380)
- Professional, high-income country, standard (\$430)
- Professional, low- or mid-income country, early (\$190)
- Professional, low- or mid-income country, standard (\$240)
- Student, high-income country, early (\$190)
- Student, high-income country, standard (\$240)
- Student, low- or mid-income country, early (\$90)
- Student, low- or mid-income country, standard (\$130)

Please note that the registration fee includes a year's membership in the HDCA. As in previous years, the HDCA aims to make partial financial assistance available to those who need it.

DETAILS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN DUE COURSE on the conference website:

<https://hd-ca.org/conferences/2017-hdca-conference-cape-town-south-africa>

## **How to Submit Your Proposal**

Please submit your proposed poster, paper, or panel, via the submission site **after 31 January**

**2017** (<https://http://www.conftool.pro/hdca2017/> using the appropriate form.

If you encounter problems with the online submissions system, please email the conference organizers. (Haajirah.Esau@uct.ac.za)

In order to ensure academic quality, all submissions will be reviewed by two reviewers, at least one of whom is an HDCA Fellow or a senior researcher in the field.

## **Important deadlines**

### **March 17, 2017 - Submission of proposals**

(Those concerned with obtaining visas to travel to South Africa should submit as soon as possible.)

**April 15, 2017** - Announcement of acceptance/rejection

**June 15, 2017** - Deadline for conference registration at early-bird rates

**July 15, 2017** - Submission of full papers/posters

**August 15, 2017** - Final deadline for conference registration at standard rates