



School of Humanities and Social Sciences
2025 Humanities and Social Sciences Conference

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

REIMAGINING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: VOICES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Date: 7th to 8th August 2025

Venue: University of Malawi, Zomba

CONFERENCE RATIONALE

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Malawi invites submissions for a conference under the theme '*Reimagining Sustainable Futures: Voices from the Global South*'. In an era marked by unprecedented global challenges, including climate change, social inequality, and economic instability, the need for sustainable solutions has never been more pressing. The humanities and social sciences offer unique tools and frameworks for understanding the relationship of cultural, social, economic, and political factors that shape our approach to sustainability. They provide critical perspectives on the narratives, values, and power structures that underpin current unsustainable practices and can help reimagine more inclusive and equitable futures. This conference seeks to highlight the critical contributions of the humanities and social sciences in shaping our understanding of sustainability and informing pathways towards more equitable and resilient futures. Furthermore, the conference aims to enhance transdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration among scholars, researchers, policymakers and practitioners by examining the social and political practices related to sustainable futures. It thus encourages authors to provide critical perspectives on the narratives, values, and power structures that inform sustainability discourse.

SUGGESTED THEMES

1. Philosophy of Sustainability

- a. Philosophical Traditions and Sustainability
- b. Ethical Frameworks and Sustainable Futures
- c. Intergenerational Justice and Development

2. Health and Well-being

- a. Mental Health and Social Wellbeing
- b. Public Health Contestations

3. Population and Development

- a. Resilience and Adaptation
- b. Migration and Displacement
- c. Urbanisation and Sustainable Cities

4. Power Dynamics and Democracy in Africa

- a. Youth Engagement and Sustainable Futures
- b. Power, Politics, and Sustainability
- c. Gender and Intersectionality

5. Indigenous Knowledge Systems

- a. Cultural Dimensions of Sustainable Consumption and Production
- b. Eco-theology and Spirituality

6. Popular Culture

- a. The Role of Narrative and Storytelling
- b. Music and Arts
- c. Cyberculture
- d. Folk Culture

7. Education, Communication and Development

- a. Education for Sustainable Futures
- b. Digital Technologies and Sustainable Futures in the Global South
- c. Social media and artificial intelligence

8. Decolonizing Sustainability

- a. Indigenous Environmental Knowledge and Practice
- b. Power Relations in Global Sustainability Discourse and Policy
- c. Alternative Development Paradigms and Local Solutions

9. Language and development

- a. Linguistic Diversity and Sustainable Knowledge Systems
- b. Language Policy and Inclusive Development
- c. Mother Tongue Education and Sustainable Learning

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Extended abstracts of 350 words should be submitted by **18 April 2025**. shssconference@unima.ac.mw. Include a brief bio (100 words) and contact information. For postgraduate students, indicate your interest to participate in the Pre-conference workshop. All participants should indicate whether their abstract should be considered for Oral presentation or Poster Presentation.

IMPORTANT DATES

18 April 2025	Abstract Submission
30 April 2025	Notification of Acceptance
15 May to 15 June 2025	Early bird Registration
15 June to 20 July 2025	Standard Registration
30 July 2025	Full Paper Submission: (for those wishing for their papers to appear in selected journals below)
6 August 2025	Pre-conference Postgraduate Workshop
7-8 August 2025	Main Conference

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Selected papers will be considered for publication in special issues of the Journal of Humanities, the Malawi Journal of Social Sciences, and the Africa Journal of Religion and Culture.

FEES

International participants: **Early USD100, Standard USD150.00**

International students: **Early USD50, Standard USD80.00**

Local participants: **Early MWK100,000.00, Standard MWK150,000.00**

Local students: **Early MWK50,000.00, Standard MWK80,000.00**

CONTACT

For inquiries, please get in touch with the organising team at shssconference@unima.ac.mw

ORGANISING TEAM

Dr Yamikani Ndasauka, Department of Philosophy

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