



## TRANSFORMATION OF FOLKLORE: FROM THE FIREPLACE TO THE DIGITAL SPACE

### First Call for Papers, Posters and Workshops

#### 2025 SAFOS Conference

**23-26 September 2025**

The annual International Conference of Southern African Folklore Society (SAFOS) will be hosted by Walter Sisulu University (WSU), Department of African Languages on the Mthatha Campus on 23-26 September 2025.

Transformation is a fundamental aspect of all species, reflecting their development, evolution and transition from one perspective to another. Folklore needs to be transformed in the era of digitalisation because the Fourth and subsequent Industrial Revolutions are taking the centre of the human species and globalising lifestyles through different digital platforms. It started from the fireplace with physical human interaction and to the digital space where human interaction is virtual. Zemk' iinkomo magwalandini! The transformation of folklore is fundamental in the digital and technological era for its preservation for future generations.

This call for papers, therefore, allows students, academics, researchers, and practitioners in various fields to share their research findings and recommendations. All submitted abstracts will undergo a peer review process and be evaluated based on originality, technical and research depth, accuracy, and relevance to the conference's sub-themes. Abstracts and articles can be submitted in any official language of Southern African to support intellectualisation of African Languages. **The full papers are expected to be submitted on 30 June 2025, and they will be published on SAFOS Journal and Book Chapters.** Submit your abstracts and papers at [safos2025@wsu.ac.za](mailto:safos2025@wsu.ac.za).

#### Sub-themes:

- Preservation and Archiving of Folklore in Digital Space
- Learning and Teaching of Folklore in Digital Age
- Artificial Intelligence and Folklore in a Digital Era
- Orality and Folklore in Digital Age
- Transformation and Transmission of Folklore in Digital Age
- Folklore and Law in Digital Era
- Intellectual Property and Digitalization
- Folklore and Economy in Digital Era
- Folklore and Social Media
- Folklore and New Technologies
- Folklore and Education in the Digital Age

- Folklore and Globality
- Folklore and Commercialisation

### **Important dates**

The submission deadline for abstracts for papers and posters is **15 December 2024** at midnight (23:59) South African Standard Time, with notice of acceptance on the week of **30 January 2025**. Registration for the conference will open on **1 February 2025** and close on **31 August 2025**.

Registration fees

#### **Early registration: 1 February 2025 to 15 April 2025**

Registration fee:

ZAR 3 600.00 for non-members

ZAR3 300.00 for paid-up members\*

ZAR1 200.00 for students that are not paid-up members

ZAR900.00 for students that are paid-up members

#### **Normal registration: 16 April 2025 to 15 July 2025**

Registration fee:

ZAR4 000 for non-members

ZAR3 700 for paid-up members\*

ZAR1 500 for students that are not paid-up members

ZAR1 200 for students that are paid-up members

#### **Late registration: 16 July 2025 to 31 August 2025**

Registration fee:

ZAR4 600 for non-members

ZAR4 300 for paid-up members\*

ZAR1 800 for students who are not paid-up members

ZAR1 500 for students that are paid-up members

No refunds. Substitutes are welcome at no extra cost.

\*If membership for 2025 has already been paid, please send proof of membership with proof of conference registration payment to [safos2025@wsu.ac.za](mailto:safos2025@wsu.ac.za).