

ENGAGED RESEARCH CONFERENCE PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Theme: Engaged Research as a Pathway to Bridging Knowledge and Society

Dates: 21 – 24 October 2025

Time: 09:00 – 16:30 (Daily)

Venue: Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre, Gauteng

Programme Directors:

Ms Bongiwe Moni, Director ECDI, HSRC

Dr Konosoang Sobane, Acting Manager SPU, HSRC

21 OCTOBER 2025	
TIME	PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS ON METHODOLOGY 3 PARALLEL SESSIONS
14:00 – 16:00	Qualitative evidence synthesis methodologies
14:00 – 16:00	Photovoice and digital storytelling
14:00 – 16:00	Communicating science for policy
TIME	ITEM: ECDI PROGRAMME DELEGATES
13:00 – 14:00	Arrival and registration
14:00 – 15:00	Interactive exhibition: Partners, potential employers
15:00 – 16:00	Exiting interns poster presentations
16:00 – 17:00	Check-in
GALA DINNER	
17:00 – 17:30	Gala dinner welcome drinks
17:30 – 17:40	Opening plenary
17:40 – 18:00	Welcome address
18:00 – 18:15	Opening remarks
18:15 – 18:25	Message of support
18:25 – 18:50	Keynote message
18:50 – 19:00	Commemorating twenty years of impact: Internship Journey (Impact Video 20-year journey)
19:10 – 19:45	Dinner (live band)
19:45 – 20:45	DSI Internship graduation ceremony
20:45 – 20:50	Reflection – exiting interns
20:50 – 21:05	DSI-HSRC Mentor Recognition and Awards Best Mentor for the 2023 – 2025 Cohort Long-Standing Host Administrator Long-Standing Mentor
21:05 – 21:20	HSRC Special Awards
21:20 – 21:30	Impact videos of exiting interns
21:30 – 21:35	Closing remarks
21:35	Networking and departure

DAY 1: 22 OCTOBER 2025

SETTING THE SCENE: ENGAGED RESEARCH IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Time	Session title
08:00 – 09:00	Arrival and Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Opening Session
09:10 – 09:20	10-minute clip: Science Engagement highlights at the HSRC
09:20 – 09:50	Welcome address: Five-year reflection on science engagement at the HSRC – Implications for research uptake and impact
09:50 – 10:15	Opening remarks
10:15 – 10:45	TEA
PLENARY	
Time	Title
10:45 – 11:30	Panel 1: Why Engaged Research?
11:30 – 12:15	Panel 2: Co-creation and participatory approaches to health and well-being research
12:15 – 13:00	Panel 3: The state and democracy
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
PARALLEL SESSIONS	
14:00 – 16:00	Track A1: Co-Creation and Participatory Research Approaches
14:00 – 16:00	Track A2: Co-Creation and Participatory Research Approaches
14:00 – 16:00	Track B: Impactful Community Partnerships
16:00 – 18:00	Poster Presentations and Exhibitions

DAY 2: 23 OCTOBER 2025

Exploring Engaged Research Methodologies in the Digital and AI Age

18:00 – 19:30 **Cocktail dinner**

Time **Session title**

09:00 – 10:15 Keynote address: Engaged Research in the age of technology

10:15 – 11:45 Reflections from Science Councils: Engaged Research as research impact

11:45 – 12:15 **TEA**

12:15 – 14:15 Track A
Engaged Research in the Digital Age

12:15 – 14:15 Track B
Epistemic Justice, Social Justice, and Equity in Research

12:15 – 14:15 Track C
Ethical and Inclusive Research Practices

14:15 – 15:15 **Lunch**

Time **Session Title**

15:15 – 16:00 Panel A: The Practicalities of community-engaged research: what works.

Parallel sessions

16:00 – 18:00 Track D

Fostering engagement between different knowledge systems

16:00 – 18:00 Track E

The institutionalisation of engaged research: Approaches, praxis and systems

18:00 **Free conference afternoon**

DAY 3: 24 OCTOBER 2025

From Knowledge to Impact: Global North and Global South Conversations

09:00 – 10:00	Keynote Address: Measuring what matters – Evaluating the impact of Engaged Research
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Parallel sessions

10:15 – 12:15	Track A Impact Measurement and Evaluation
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10:15 – 12:15	Track B Research Translation and Knowledge Brokering
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12:15 – 12:45	TEA
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12:45 – 13:15	Science Diplomacy Certificate Ceremony
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13:15 – 14:15	Closing session: Towards a national agenda for Engaged Research – Future directions on Engaged Research
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14:15 – 15:15	Lunch and departures
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