

The Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Eswatini (UNESWA), is hosting the 23rd edition of the NSSA biennial Congress from 25-27 September 2024.

First call for abstracts

While it is common practice to associate names and naming with the disciplinary domains of linguistics and anthropology, onomasticians have pursued the import of names far beyond these domains. Names can be, and indeed, have been studied from positivist, constructivist, and interpretivist paradigms. This is evidence of the inter and transdisciplinary nature of the field of onomastics. Theories and practices within the ambit of onomastics include empirical Geo-spatial approaches to location, philosophical engagements on names, reference and identity, linguistic aspects on the structure and meanings, etymological and historical aspects, cultural and pragmatic aspects, geo-political and legal discourses, colonial and decolonial discourses, sociological and religious significance, psychological effects of names, business and branding, critical approaches and literary onomastics to name some.

The Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Eswatini (UNESWA), invites academics and other parties interested in names and naming to submit abstracts for the 23rd edition of the NSSA Congress to be held in September 2024.

Venue: University of Eswatini

Dates: 25-27 September 2024

Theme and sub-themes

The theme for the congress is: *Names and naming in a cultural landscape: a view from the Kingdom of Eswatini*. Abstracts addressing, but not limited to, the following areas of onomastics will be considered:

1. Theories in names and naming

- *Theoretical approaches to names and naming*
- *The linguistics of names*
- *Types of proper names*
- *Theories of the onym*
- *On the origins of proper names*

2. Names and culture

- *Names, history, and heritage*
- *Name taboos and avoidance*
- *Names and cultural transitions*
- *Names and politeness theories*
- *Names and religion*
- *The pragmatics of names, namers, and naming conventions*
- *Purposive naming*

3. Names and the self-other dichotomy

- *Names and gender*
- *Names, colonisation and coloniality*
- *Names and the Linguistic landscape*
- *Renaming*
- *Names, race, ethnicity, and nationality*

4. The legal import of names and naming

- *Legal issues in names and naming*
- *Naming policies*
- *Name change laws*
- *Naming rights*
- *Names and copyright/patents*

5. Names, science, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS)

- *Names and geo-spatial location*
- *Names and the psyche*
- *Naming within science and engineering (STEM)*
- *Names and the environment*
- *Names as communication*
- *Naming and resource management*

6. Names in business and the media

- *Brand names and marketing*
- *Names, the media and globalisation*
- *Naming and media influence*
- *Names, identity, and social media*

7. Names in business and the media

- *Brand names and marketing*
- *Names, the media and globalisation*
- *Naming and media influence*
- *Names, identity, and social media*

8. (Un)conventional naming

- *Nicknames*
- *Hypocorisms*
- *Names and youth language practices*

9. Literary onomastics

Abstract format guidelines:

Abstracts are to be submitted as email attachments, as follows:

- Should be between 200 & 250 words in Times New Roman font 12.
- They should include 5 keywords.
- The title should be in bold.
- They should indicate full names of authors, affiliation including department/institute/school/association/
- Include a reliable email address.

Correspondence and Enquiries are to be directed to: nssa@uneswa.ac.sz

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 25 March 2024 Notification of acceptance/rejection: 01 May 2024 Presentations:

The conference will be a face-to-face with limited online presentations which will be pre-recorded. It will accommodate both paper and poster presentations.

Registration:

Category	Early registration up to 30 May 2024	Standard registration up to 30 August 2024	Late registration after 30 August 2024
Academics	E3500-00	E3800-00	E4000-00
Other delegates (teachers, artists, NGOs, etc.)	E3000-00	E3500-00	E3800-00
Online presentations	E1500-00	E1800-00	E2000-00
Students	E2000-00	E2200-00	E2500-00
Exhibitors and stalls	E4000-00	E5000-00	E6000-00