






Research  
Symposium

# Education under Asymmetric Conditions

 **23 April 2026**  **14:00 – 18:00**  **Online via Zoom**

The Research Symposium 'Education under Asymmetric Conditions' brings together researchers from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the FernUniversität in Hagen (FeU) to explore how education unfolds within asymmetric social, political, and cultural contexts. The symposium focuses on methodological innovations, historical perspectives, and pedagogical insights, including topics such as grassroots educational approaches, empowerment through education, power relations, socio-cultural influences, informal and unmediated learning, and bottom-up practices.

The event will take place digitally as a half-day symposium on April 23rd, 2026, and the programme features concise inputs and interactive discussions, structured into sessions on methodological approaches and historical-pedagogical perspectives, followed by a panel discussion on shared perspectives and ways forward. The aim is to create a space for sharing and discussing diverse viewpoints on the complex dynamics that shape educational experiences in unequal environments.

**UNISA** |   
university  
of south africa

 **FernUniversität in Hagen**

# Programme – Thursday, 23 April 2026

**14:00 – 18:00**

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14:00 – 14:10

## **Welcome and Introduction**

Prof Eva Cendon (FeU) and Prof Mpine Makoe (UNISA)

14:10 – 14:30

## **Opening Statements**

### **Asymmetric Education and Inclusion – an Open Education Perspective**

Prof Sindile Ngubane

(Institute for Open and Distance Learning (IODL), UNISA)

### **History and Its Neighbours.**

#### **Interdisciplinarity through the Eyes of a Historian**

Prof Jürgen G. Nagel

(Historical Institute, FeU)

14:30 – 15:30

## **Methodological Approaches to Education Under Asymmetric Conditions**

### **Oral History as a Methodological Approach in History of Education**

Leo Ryczko

(Historical Institute, FeU)

### **Future Workshops as Methodological Approach for Envisioning Joint Futures**

Prof Eva Cendon

(Institute of Education Science and Media Research, FeU)

### **African Intellectual Women and Their Contributions to Modern South Africa through an alternative historical lens**

Samkelo Ntobeko Mngadi

(Department of History, UNISA)

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15:30 – 15:45

Break

15:45 – 16:45

**Historical and Pedagogical Perspectives  
on Asymmetric Conditions**

**Education Under Asymmetric Institutional Conditions:  
Academic Work, Identity, and Wellbeing in Open  
Distance Learning**

Hugo van der Walt  
(IODL, UNISA)

**Considering unmediated learning as an alternative  
approach to public history and heritage education  
in South Africa**

Dr Sipokazi Madida  
(Department of History, UNISA)

**Education Under Asymmetric Institutional Conditions:  
Inclusion in Distance Higher Education in the Global  
South and North**

Irina Haury  
(Institute of Education Science and Media Research, FeU)

16:45 – 17:45

**Panel Discussion:  
Shared Perspectives and Ways Forward**

Prof Eva Cendon (FeU), Prof Mpine Makoe (UNISA),  
Prof Sindile Ngubane (UNISA), Prof Jürgen G. Nagel (FeU),  
Prof Chitja Morgurhoff Twala (UNISA)

17:45 – 18:00

**Farewell**

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# Education under Asymmetric Conditions

The symposium is designed to connect current research perspectives, identify opportunities for future collaboration, and develop shared directions for further inquiry into „education under asymmetric conditions.“ Through this collaborative dialogue, we hope to lay the groundwork for potential joint projects and ongoing scholarly networks between UNISA and FeU, and to consider publication of selected outcomes or insights.



## Research Symposium

**Join us!**

**Livestream via Zoom**



Meeting-ID:  
686 1232 0982

Kenncode:  
53004214

### **Chairs of the Symposium:**

Prof Eva Cendon

(Institute of Education Science and Media Research, FeU)

Prof Mpine Makoe

(Dean College of Education, UNISA)