



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.

Programme – Thursday, 23 April 2026

14:00 – 18:00

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)

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

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.

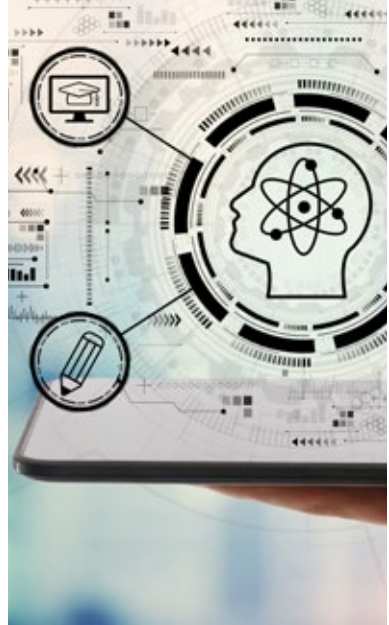
Join us!

Livestream via Zoom



Meeting-ID:
686 1232 0982

Kenncode:
53004214



**Research
Symposium**

Chairs of the Symposium:

Prof Eva Cendon

(Institute of Education Science and Media Research, FeU)

Prof Mpine Makoe

(Dean College of Education, UNISA)