

6-8 December 2017

Rhodes University
Grahamstown
South Africa



Transitions, Transformations and Transgressions in Work and Learning & Work and Learning Research

The unifying theme for RWL10 is Transitions, Transformations and Transgressions in Work and Learning & Work and Learning Research

This theme invites enquiry into how changes in the socio-economic, socio-material, and socio-ecological world shape transitions, transformations and transgressions in work and learning practices, experiences and research approaches.

Some questions for engaging the theme:

1. What transitions, transformations or transgressions are emerging in work and learning as societies confront the vagaries of economic decline, deepening inequalities, socio-ecological risks like climate change, and social insecurity at local and global scales?
2. What relationship exists between micro-level work and learning research contexts and approaches, and wider patterns of global change and sustainable development?
3. How do various transitions, transformations and transgressions influence the organisation of work; professional learning; and the identity and agency of professionals?
4. What are the implications of various transitions, transformations and transgression potentials for worker agency, and thus also for transformative forms of workplace learning?
5. How are work practices and systems such as human resources development, career development and mentoring and coaching changing, if at all?
6. How are occupational and skill differentiations, broadly defined in traditional categories of high, intermediate and low skill and/or formal and informal forms of work changing? Are these boundary categories being challenged by wider transformations, and what implications emerge for RWL?
7. What is transformative (or not) in RWL research methodologies in a transforming society and world?

Visit www.RWL10.co.za

for further information on the conference

(the website will be regularly updated).

Conference

Hosts

The Rhodes University Environmental Learning Research Centre have been involved in Work and Learning research since the early 1990s when the Murray & Roberts Chair of Environmental Education was established.

The first participatory certificate course in environmental education and training was researched and offered out of this centre, supporting thousands of educators in Africa to participate in building a more sustainable, just future, and improve education and professional learning practices.

Later the research centre helped to develop some of South Africa's first environment and sustainability qualifications for a range of sectors.

The Centre has also been involved in researching and designing a wide range of professional development programmes across the African continent for a range of work contexts.

Between 2008-2014 the Centre was involved in a research partnership with the South African Qualifications Authority

to research learning pathways to sustainable development.

The Centre currently co-ordinates the national Green Skills System Capacity Building Programme in partnership with the Wits Centre for Researching Education and Labour (REAL), the UCT African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), and the University of the Western Cape's Further Education and Training Institute (FETI), bringing a wealth of expertise together with state departments, NGOs and parastatal organisations. visit www.greenskills.co.za and www.ru.ac.za/elrc



RWL 10 is here!

Rhodes University is a research led university with one of the highest per capita research outputs in the country. It provides high quality conferencing support and regularly hosts international conferences. Visit www.ru.ac.za

Grahamstown, in the Makana District, is an educational centre in the Eastern Cape. It is situated at the border zone of the early Frontier wars between the English Settlers and the amaXhosa and has a complex and conflict laden history. It has a high educational inequality profile and a high unemployment rate. It offers a variety of accommodation options for conference visitors. Visit www.grahamstown.co.za

The Eastern Cape is home to over 6 million people, most of whom are amaXhosa. It incorporates a number of former Bantustan 'homelands' established under apartheid separatist development policies, and remains one of the country's poorest provinces. Yet there are also exciting developments taking place and important new challenges for RWL. There are also numerous nearby sites and activities that allow for insights into the area's rich cultural and natural heritage. Visit www.southafrica.net (Eastern Cape)

Some interesting work and learning dynamics in the Eastern Cape Province

Malaria Free Safari's and the Sunshine Coast with Poverty on the ground

The Eastern Cape has a strong tourism economy, and is one of the main centres of the biodiversity and wildlife economy in South Africa. It offers high quality tourism and game viewing options in a malaria free environment and hosts the Addo National Park which covers no less than six biomes. The emergence of the wildlife economy has created new streams of work, and created redundancies, especially of traditional farm workers. Many remain in poverty still affected by the legacies of poor quality education and an absence of appropriate training and learning pathways out of poverty.

High Tech Green Energy Development

The Eastern Cape Province is currently undergoing a massive transition to become one of the major sources of renewable energy for South Africa. This has created interesting challenges for curriculum development and learning pathways research in the province, as technology development and application outpaces capacity for education and training responses.

Big Industry, Small Co-operatives and Public Works Programmes all seeking to provide jobs

The Eastern Cape is also the major centre for motor manufacturing in South Africa. Around this mainstream industry exists a strong tradition of vibrant small and medium enterprises. While this is the case, these still fail to employ all those in need of work. In response there is an emerging interest in and emergence of local co-operatives as big industry fails to provide enough jobs for the high demand and high unemployment rates. Emerging community education centres and the national Expanded Public Works Programmes are taking up the challenges of creating and recognising new forms of work and learning.

Health care sector facing skills shortages

The Eastern Cape has a high incidence of HIV/AIDS which, together with other health care needs creates numerous challenges for the health care system. A scarcity of adequately qualified professionals plagues the sector, along with complex management challenges, providing an important platform for health professionals capacity development.

The Conference will offer excursions to some of these sites and developments, with more information posted on the conference website closer to the time. WWW.RWL10.CO.ZA