

9<sup>th</sup> Annual



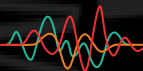
# Literature Heritage Ecology CONFERENCE

## Indigenous Knowledge Systems for a New Era of Enlightenment

3 & 4 March 2027

Makhanda

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# CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2027 Amazwi Literature Heritage Ecology (LHE) Conference invites scholars, practitioners, and activists to explore the transformative potential of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) as a catalyst for planetary restoration. We propose a 'New Enlightenment,' a movement that seeks to reconcile the profound ontological rift between humanity and the environment. By critically contrasting this emergence with the European Enlightenment of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries - a period which codified the 'Great Separation' of mind and matter, and of humanity from nature - we aim to expose the roots of our current social-ecological crises. Through decolonial and eco-critical lenses, this conference posits that IKS offers more than historical insight. It provides a rigorous framework to reinstate the agency of the more-than-human world and to displace the extractive paradigms of individualism and acquisition. Papers are invited that examine how the integration of IKS within literature, science, and heritage can heal the wounds of colonial capitalism and foster a new era of social-ecological justice and systemic healing.

Please note  
that this is an  
in-person  
event

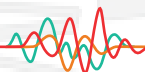
Presentations should be grounded in at least two of the conference's three entangled areas of interest:

**LITERATURE** | Encompassing oral and written traditions and all forms of storytelling.

**HERITAGE** | Encompassing both cultural and natural heritage, and both tangible and intangible heritage. To remember the past enables the creation of a better future.

**ECOLOGY** | Humanity is entangled within the Earth's natural systems, and shares this state of being with all other living things.

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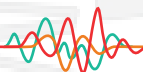
Amazwi LHE Conference 2027

## Themes, questions, provocations

**Decolonisation and climate action**

Literary heritage as environmental archive **Displacing the 'Great Separation' with a 'New Enlightenment'** Cognitive justice and ecological policy **Healing the social-ecological rift** Indigenous resilient technologies **Orality and the non-human voice** The global decolonial turn **Museums as sites of ecological memory** Digital colonialism **Digital storytelling and virtual ancestral spaces** Psychological and philosophical separation from the environment **'Slow time' and 'real-time'** The living nature of IKS in the age of automation **A new era of digital extraction** Indigenous Post-Humanism **Decolonising the pastoral and the sublime** The poetics of water and hydro-colonialism **Eco-Gothic and ancestral 'hauntings'** Orature as resistance to 'slow violence' **Biosemiotics and Indigenous literatures** Speculative Afrofuturism and ecological restoration

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# Abstract deadline

## 1 November 2026

# Registration deadline

## 1 February 2027

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that this is an  
in-person  
event

### Conference rates

#### **EARLY-BIRD**

*Before 1 November 2026*

Full conference | R1500

Single day | R750

#### **STANDARD**

*After 1 November 2026*

Full conference | R2000

Single day | R1000

#### **CONCESSION**

*Students and retirees*

Full conference | R1000

Single day | R500

[Click here to find everything you need for abstract submission and registration on the conference page on Amazwi's website](#)

### **Pro tip!**

When you submit your abstract before 1 November 2026, register at the same time to lock in the early-bird rate. Registration can be cancelled if necessary, but the early-bird date is fixed.

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