



STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

5th ISibalo Conference of African Young Statisticians

SECOND Information Bulletin

15 March 2016



For more information, contact: Dr. Miranda Mafafo at Mirandam@statssa.gov.za

1. FOCUS OF THE 5th ISIBALO AFRICAN YOUNG STATISTICIANS CONFERENCE

Statistics South Africa is pleased to be hosting its 5th ISibalo African Young Statisticians Conference in Pretoria in June 2016. This year the conference will be a general scientific conference with a SPECIFIC focus on POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT aimed at advancing population scholarship in the region through sharing of population related research and programs, interaction of scholars and practitioners, as well as exposure to new methods and issues in demography.

Demographers, population and development scholars, academics, students and practitioners continentally will be there to train, mentor and teach young statisticians in a variety of areas.

Contrary to the past four conferences, this conference will be organized around training sessions in research methodology, keynote presentations on various issues of population, data, development, policy and communication of research for policy, and, presentations of research proposals by qualifying young statisticians. The conference will provide an excellent platform for demographers, population scientists and professionals from related fields to interact and share their knowledge on research findings as well as experiences.

2. RESEARCH THEMES OF THE 5th ISIBALO CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN YOUNG STATISTICIANS

The conference is organised around the following research sub-themes but are not restricted to these:

THEME 1: A DEMOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

- Fertility transition in Africa
- Children, youth and the transition to adulthood
- Determinants and consequences of African urbanisation
- Family planning & reproductive health
- Demographic projections
- Adult health, mortality, morbidity and ageing
- Migration patterns, trends and consequences
- Marriage and the African family

THEME 2: POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Population & development: programs and policy
- Poverty in Africa
- Agriculture, food security & climate change
- Population and gender
- HIV, health & development interventions
- Population and economic development
- The demographic dividend and the African economy
- Population, education and development
- Population, development and environment
- Population studies in school curriculum

THEME 3: POPULATION DATA & METHODS

- Big data and data revolution
- Methodological issues and data sources in fertility, mortality or migration
- Measurements of poverty
- Small area estimation in Africa
- Civil registration, administrative records and population & housing censuses
- Spatial analysis in demography
- Health & demographic surveillance systems and other data sources: validation, comparability & complementarity
- Quality issues in African surveys & censuses
- Statistical information systems on fertility, mortality and migration

THEME 4: COMMUNICATING POPULATION DATA & RESEARCH

- Population data literacy for non-data users
- Demographic data for development decision-making: building capacity of policymakers, media and civil society
- Effective advocacy for sound policy-making
- Data-based advocacy: using statistical indicators for public awareness on population issues
- Communication population research
- Closing the research-to-policy gap

3. TAKING THE RESEARCH PROCESS FORWARD FOR THE 5th ISIBALO CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN YOUNG STATISTICIANS

In moving away from a broad theme for a conference of African young statisticians, as a prelude to the 28th International Population Conference of the IUSSP to be hosted by South Africa in October 2017, the 5th ISIBALO Conference of African Young Statisticians will adopt the theme of POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.

- (a) Interested African young statisticians were invited to participate in this journey of building capacity in the field of demography, population and development, and whose work will be tested at the IUSSP conference in 2017 while providing an opportunity for African young statisticians to network, learn and interact with global experts in 2017.
- (b) For the 5th ISIBalo Conference of African Young Statisticians, interested African young statisticians submitted a 1-2 page concept note on any topic of interested outlined above. A selection committee reviewed and selected those concept notes that will met a required standard, while displaying relevance of topic for consideration in participating in the mentorship programme towards the IUSSP meeting in 2017.
- (c) **Your concept note has been selected you are now invited to submit a full research proposal of no more than 8-10 pages which you will present at the 5th ISIBalo Conference of African Young Statisticians.**
- (d) **Guidelines for developing a research proposal are attached.** You will be grouped into the different themes, with each thematic group being overseen by a panel of experts who will assist you along the way. In order to assist you better, you will need to adhere strictly to deadlines.
- (e) Another selection process will take place at the end of April 2016 to further sift out those proposals that are simply not meeting the required standard.
- (f) At the 5th ISIBalo Conference of African Young Statisticians, selected young statisticians will be taken through research methods and training courses on data analysis, literature review and policy analysis, scientific writing, poster, powerpoint and oral presentation and communication skills training in preparation for the IUSSP International Population Conference in 2017.
- (g) After the 5th ISIBalo Conference of African Young Statisticians, participating African young statisticians will conduct and conclude their research, send their papers in to the selection committee for review in preparation for the 28th International Population Conference of the IUSSP in October 2017 in Cape Town.
- (h) As a reminder, as you prepare your research proposal, be mindful of the fact that this process is best suited for African young statisticians who are interested in bridging the gaps between data, research and policy through communication and advocacy for more effective policy implementation.

- (i) After the IUSSP Population Conference, further refined papers of African young Statisticians will be published in a special edition journal to be identified. Any ongoing work will become part of an ISibalo Working Papers Series.

All research proposals must be submitted with the following considerations:

- ✓ Submissions must be made in in electronic format preferably MS Word/RTF-Format before the deadline.
- ✓ Use font ARIAL, font size 12 and line space 1.5
- ✓ If your proposal does not include your name, country, title and contact details, you will be disqualified. We will not waste time trying to find obvious information about you.

All queries on research proposals must be directed to:

Dr. Miranda Mafafo
Mirandam@statssa.gov.za

Or

Mr Themba Mohoto
Thembam@statssa.gov.za

4. IMPORTANT DEADLINES

SELECTION PROCESS	TIMELINE
1st call for research proposals	30 January 2016
Deadline for submission of research concept notes	19 February 2016
Review of concept notes by selection committee	4 March 2016
Applicants informed of status of their submission	11 March 2016
Shortlisted applicants invited to develop their concept notes into full research proposals	11 March 2016
Deadline for submission of full research proposals (1 st Draft)	22 April 2016
Final submission of full research proposals (Final Draft)	20 May 2016
5 th ISibalo Conference of African Young Statisticians	13-17 June 2016

5. FORMAT OF THE 5th ISIBALO CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN YOUNG STATISTICIANS

Although detail will be provided later, the general format of the 5th ISIBalo Conference of African Young Statisticians will be as follows:

Monday 13 June 2016	Tuesday 14 June 2016	Wednesday 15 June 2016	Thursday 16 June 2016	Friday 17 June 2016	Training of Mentors Research & Writing Lab Exhibitions Research Consultations & Networking
Opening ceremony	Plenary 2: Research gaps and innovation for the African demographic dividend	Plenary 3: Agriculture, food security & policy in Africa	Plenary 4: Statistical Development & leadership in Africa	Plenary 5: Communicating Population data for Policy & decision-making	
Plenary session 1: Population & Development in Africa	Training 2: Data collection & data sources	Training 5: Presenting data	Youth & Leadership	Research proposal presentations	
A Status report on the Demography of Africa and African statistical development	Training 3: Data analysis and literature & policy analysis	Research proposal presentations	Research proposal presentations	Research proposal presentations	
Training 1: Writing a research proposal	Training 4: Scientific writing	Research proposal presentations	Field Tour	Research proposal presentations	
Training: Tools for Demographic Estimation	Training: Comparing DHS, survey and longitudinal data from In-depth sites.	Training: Mapping data using QGIS	Social Evening	Publishing research work	

Plenary presentations will be made by various international and pan-African experts in their fields of study, who are willing to work with young statisticians. The training workshops will also be undertaken by expert professors and researchers from local research and academic institutions