



FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

19th ANNUAL BEN-AFRICA CONFERENCE

5-6 November 2020

Swakopmund, Namibia

Africa beyond 2020 – Ethical Reflections, Transformational Possibilities

The conference is an international platform for stakeholders from the private sector, the public sector, non-profit organisations and academia to come together to reflect, to discuss and to respond to the opportunities and challenges related to developmental interventions in Africa from a business ethics perspective, as well as to reflect on the development of an African business ethos, and its compatibility with typically Western notions of business ethics.

With the hindsight of several narratives about the promise and potential of Africa – including ‘Africa Rising’ and ‘African Renaissance’ – we offer, at this year’s conference, an opportunity to reflect upon the ethics story, more particularly the business ethics story, that can be told about Africa. Tracing the trajectory of this story fits the story of BEN-Africa, from its inaugural conference in 2000, and the task it assigned itself then: to strengthen the commitment and competence of Africans to do business with moral integrity. As we convene in Swakopmund, Namibia, we ask, how successful has this mission been? What are the national factors and global trends which have worked against achieving greater success in this mission? Is the mission still a worthwhile goal? What still remains to be done? What technologies, human paradigms, and governance frameworks offer the most sustainable path to transforming Africa into becoming the source of its own legitimacy and value?

Submissions

Scholars and other experts from around the world are invited to submit industry and academic papers and posters that address the theme of ‘Africa beyond 2020 – Ethical Reflections, Transformational Possibilities’ (please see below for suggested sub-themes). However, any papers dealing with business or organisational ethics in Africa will be considered.

The conference language is English. The abstract of the papers and posters will be reviewed for relevance and rigour. Abstract submissions should be sent electronically to Dr Julio Andrade at julio@tei.org.za

Timeline

- August 1, 2020: Deadline for abstract submissions (500-1,000 words) and for full papers for potential publication in the African Journal of Business Ethics*.
- September 30, 2020: Confirmation of acceptance to present at the Conference.
- November 5 - 6, 2020: Conference. The presentation parallel sessions will take place on Day 1 of the conference - 5th November.
- December 9, 2020: Re-submission of revised, full papers for external review (single blind peer review).
- January 15 –March 15, 2021: Completion of external review, and feedback to authors.
- Mid-May 2021: Publication of papers in the African Journal of Business Ethics.

*Please note that abstract submissions are adequate if you only intend on presenting at the conference. If, however, you are interested in publishing your paper in the African Journal of Business Ethics, the above deadlines must please be adhered to.

We are also pleased to announce the Aloe award for the best conference paper. The winner will be announced at the conference and will receive a signed copy of Rossouw and Van Vuuren's *Business Ethics* (6th edition). In order to be eligible for this award, your FULL paper must be submitted by 1 August 2020. BEN-Africa reserves the right not to make the award should an insufficient amount of full papers be received by the deadline.

Registration fees

Presenters are required to register and pay for the conference, at a reduced fee of \$50 /R800, and to make their own way to the conference.

- BEN-Africa Member: USD 250 / R3500
- TEI Member & USB-ED : USD 250 / R3500
- Paper presenter (Papers or abstracts must have been accepted): USD 50 / R800
- Non-BEN-Africa Member: USD300 / R4000

Details

For details on the preparation of full papers, please see the 'Author Guidelines' for the African Journal of Business Ethics, available online at:

<http://ajobe.journals.ac.za/pub/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions>.

Registration and Conference Website

To register for the conference and for information on accommodation, transport and the programme, please see: <http://www.benafrica.org/conference-2020/>

Sub-themes

The conference theme is 'Africa beyond 2020 – Ethical Reflections, Transformational Possibilities'. Any paper that addresses this theme, or the wider theme of business ethics in Africa, will be considered.

Suggested sub-themes include:

- Case studies on African organisations/corporations/industries/national and regional economies which focus on business ethics/leadership/governance/CSR
- Literature overviews/critical analyses of African Business Ethics scholarship of the last 20 years
- Critiques of African narratives – ‘Africa rising’ /African Renaissance: helpful or distraction?
- Business ethics/governance in the African public-sector
- Public-sector – Corporate partnerships to promote integrity
- Anti-corruption/fraud programmes in Africa
- Ethics in the professions and Africa: extractive industries /public-works /engineering/ auditing /banking /accounting
- Whistleblowing
- Africa and 4IR
- Africa and the ethics challenge of AI, automation and Big Data
- The potential of ‘Leapfrogging technologies’ for Africa
- How can one construct well-reasoned alternatives to prevailing practices that violate values of justice, well-being and dignity, in ways of thinking and in strategy, policy and practice?
- Who has responsibilities (and response-abilities) – to act, to desist, to compensate – in regard to violations of values of justice, human well-being and dignity?
- How can we apply indigenous African institutional models, cultural norms, and Ubuntu values to business ethics?
- Whose ethics should be enforced to ensure good governance and a reduction in corruption?
- Does the West have the right to force its business ethics standards on business on the African continent?
- How can African communitarianism enhance our ethical discourse?
- Are Ubuntu and free market capitalism incompatible?
- Is a relational ethic like Ubuntu better able to ground our ethical obligations than individualism?
- Can Ubuntu provide a strong basis for sustainability and environmental protection?

Wider themes

- Developments in business ethics teaching and practice
- Defining the business ethics agenda for Africa: Contextual challenges and opportunities
- Managing ethics in African companies and organisations
- Poverty and sustainability: defining the challenges and the way forward