

**The Aga Khan University
Network of Teaching and Learning Conference 2015
August 20-21, 2015**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

For Papers, Posters and Capacity-Building Workshops

INTRODUCTION

The Network of Teaching and Learning is pleased to announce a call for extended abstracts for its first bi-annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) conference on August 20-21, 2015. The conference seeks to provide Aga Khan University (AKU) faculty and Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)/AKU partners a platform to join in conversations and collaborations on SoTL with one another from the regions AKU serves across Asia, Africa and the UK. The conference will be held in a blended format and will focus on: “**Engaged Teaching for Engaged Learning.**”

The main goal of the conference is to raise the profile of teaching at AKU by bringing together AKU faculty and faculty developers as well as those interested in the scholarship of teaching and learning within AKDN and AKU partners. Therefore, the objectives of the conference are:

- To celebrate teaching and learning at AKU
- To identify and acknowledge SoTL at AKU
- To contribute to the development of communities of practice and enquiry around teaching and learning
- To communicate the role of TL_net in service and support for teaching excellence in AKU
- To create a shared understanding of engaged learning and teaching at AKU through the AKU TL framework
- To build capacity of faculty on engaged learning and teaching at AKU
- To recognise and reward teaching excellence
- To launch the SoTL ‘seed’ grants

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Arshad Ahmad** is the Associate Vice President, Teaching & Learning and Director of McMaster University’s Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning (MIETL). He is the President of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE), which is a national association of teachers. He is also the Vice-President of the International Consortium for Educational Development (ICED)
- **Janet Welch** is the Assistant Dean of Academic Technologies in the Faculty of Education and Director of Digital Teaching, Assessment and Learning at the University of Alberta.
- **Brenda Leibowitz** is currently Chair, Teaching and Learning, University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Previously, she was Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning at Stellenbosch University.

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

The abstract proposals should:

1. Identify the title of the paper/poster and which of the four key strands it relates to.
2. Identify the author(s) with full titles and, in the case of co-authored papers, indicate who will be responsible for presenting the paper/poster at the conference.
3. Identify the author(s) contact information.
4. Provide a 500-700 word description of the paper/poster.
5. For presentations of original data or synthesis of existing research, the proposal should specify the questions addressed, the methods used, and the main findings and their interpretation. Proposals for non-data-based presentations should include clear statements on the practical logic and goals informing the work, the nature of the main issues to be presented and how those issues advance the scholarship of teaching and learning.

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Proposals of 900-1200 words are also invited for the facilitation of pre-conference capacity building workshops. Proposals should show how the workshop sessions are linked to the conference strands above and what teaching strategies will be employed. In addition, prospective facilitators are expected to conduct interactive sessions and are therefore required to provide a summary plan of the workshop. Workshops may be attended by both faculty and post-graduate students.

KEY STRANDS

Abstracts for papers and posters and proposals for capacity building workshops should address the following four strands:

1. Innovative Engaging Pedagogies to Improve Teaching Practice

Today, classrooms that employ engaging pedagogies are considered to be classrooms in which the teacher aims to learn as much from his/her students he/she intends to teach. This strand calls for presentations that exemplify pedagogical models/practices that open up classrooms leading to learning that is enduring and transformative; ways of involving students as learners and participants with valid views on the teaching process; and, narrations of individual or group journeys that highlight the lessons learnt about the teaching and learning enterprise. Presenters can also share what they have learnt about improving their own or others' teaching practice.

2. Teaching with Technology

The use of technology in teaching and learning is quickly gaining currency in today's classrooms in most developing contexts thereby creating an array of opportunities and challenges. This strand calls for presentations on pedagogies that have employed the use of technology, research reports on the use of technology in teaching and learning as well as stories of opportunities and challenges in using technology to teach or learn. Graduates of the blended learning faculty development programme are encouraged to share their reflections and action research.

3. Assessment for Learning

There is a growing recognition that assessment should focus on learning outcomes as well as learning processes. Besides determining whether learning has occurred, it should also advance learning. This strand calls for presentations on innovative assessment practices as well as research reports or stories of opportunities and challenges in assessing for learning.

4. Student Voices on Learning

This strand is exclusively for postgraduate students in AKU to present posters on their learning experiences. The distinguishing characteristic of these presentations will be learning experiences that the students considered innovative and transformative.

Support by TL_net for publication of selected outstanding papers will be provided by professional educator mentors through the Academics Without Borders partnership.

TIME LINES

- a) **May 8, 2015:** All abstracts must be submitted in Word format to: sudi.matara@aku.edu
Abstracts received after this date will not be considered. Incomplete abstracts will not be reviewed.
- b) **June 8, 2015:** Following a peer review process, notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent by e-mail to all with further details for the presentations/facilitation of workshops.
- c) **August 20-21, 2015: Conference takes place in Nairobi and Karachi via a blended format.** This means papers and workshops will be presented in Karachi and Nairobi in face-to-face sessions, whilst posters will be digital and shared across locations. Keynote presenters (see above) will give their presentation whether in Kenya or Pakistan but these will be broadcast across AKU through video-conference or WebEx.

MORE INFORMATION

Additional information on the conference is available on the Networks of Quality, Teaching & Learning web page: <http://www.aku.edu/qtl/>

Please direct any queries to Dr. Jane Rarieya at: jane.rarieya@aku.edu