



30th BIENNIAL SOUTHERN AFRICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE
HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE, HARARE, 24-26 JUNE 2026

For several decades, southern Africa and the wider world have grappled with multifaceted social, political and economic legacies and transitions. These have manifested themselves in upheavals, increased armed confrontation, economic tensions, and a rise in localized social disorders. These transitions and meanders have configured and reconfigured structures and institutions of power, and are, undoubtedly, a product of historical processes, both anthropogenic and natural. Key moments in history have attracted varied historiographical responses from historians. The SAHS conference seeks to foster discussion about how historical transitions (international and local) have shaped the region's histories and historiographies. This, we hope, will help shed light on how historical processes have been understood, experienced, and interpreted.

The conference invites contributions from professional historians, postgraduate students, scholars, and practitioners, including, but not limited to, archaeologists, archivists, documentary filmmakers, and heritage specialists. We welcome papers that employ a range of methodologies, including quantitative approaches to econometric modelling, statistical analyses, and an array of data-driven analyses; as well as qualitative research such as case studies, interviews, narrative analyses and ethnographic studies. The conference seeks to examine and re-examine the pertinent role of institutions and policies broadly conceived in shaping economic outcomes and social inequalities, as read with the broader thematic focus of this conference. Thus, we invite panel proposals, individual papers, and round table discussions on the given broad theme and a wide range of sub-themes related, but not limited to:

- Legal histories: legacies, meanders, and changes in laws
- Statecraft and transitions: political and military change
- Protest cultures, everyday resistance and subversive politics
- Agrarian and food histories in the region
- The Anthropocene and environmental histories of southern Africa
- Economic transitions, crisis economies, and financial histories
- African dispensaries, medical auxiliaries and medical histories

- Paper submissions should include an abstract (max 200 words) and a biographical statement (a brief paragraph of 100 words). Panel and roundtable submissions should include a minimum of three papers (each with a 200-word abstract and short biographical statement), a proposed moderator/chair (if possible), and a 100-word abstract. Please submit online at <https://sahs.org.za/27th-southern-african-historical-society-biennial-conference/> by 20 February 2026. The submission link will be open from 1 November 2025. And email queries can be directed to sahszimbabwe2026@gmail.com.

Full conference registration: R3300

Postdoctoral students: R2500

- * The conference dinner will be billed separately and is not included in the conference fee.
- ** There will also be a limited number of postgraduate bursaries to assist with registration fees.
- *** Please make your own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Further details regarding student subsidies, conference logistics, and the SAHS Vice-Presidential Graduate Student prize will be published on the SAHS conference website in due course. For any queries or additional information, kindly email Bernard Kusena at: bkusena@arts.uz.ac.zw; or Annie Devenish at: annie.devenish@wits.ac.za; and copy Godfrey Hove at: godfreyh72@gmail.com.

Current members and prospective members can contact the SAHS Treasurer Natasha Erlank on matters regarding new member applications, renewals, registration fees or invoices at nerlank@uj.ac.za. You may also apply for membership and pay for the conference via the website: www.sahs.org.za.

There will be a special conference edition of *the South African Historical Journal*, but in addition, we welcome suggestions (via panels) for special features – clusters of 3-4 papers. If you would like to follow this route, please indicate so when submitting your panel to the conference.

The Southern African Historical Society is committed to fostering the development of young scholars in History and its allied disciplines.



*Hosted by the Department of History, Heritage and
Knowledge Systems, University of Zimbabwe*