SASEP Conference Programme

26–28 August 2026

26 August (Wednesday) – Day 1

SASEP
Southern African Society for Environmental Philosophy

TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE
08:00 – 08:45	Registration	
08:45 – 08:55	Yolandi Coetser	Welcome – Chair of Philosophy and Global Futures
8:55 – 9:00	Lynnette Fourie	Welcome – Director: Focus Area Social Transformation
09:00 – 9:30	1. Elsie Bokaba (NWU) - Online	"Echoes of uLwandle: When the Oceans Speaks, We Listen"
9:30 – 10:00	2. Josh Opperman (U of Cape Town) - Online	"Against Environmentalism (Mostly)"
10:00 – 10:20	Tea Break (20 minutes)	
10:20 – 10:50	3. Patrick Ben (U of Manchester)	"A Complementary Approach to the Problem of Inconsequentialism"
10:50 – 11:20	4. Nihahl Nuraan Hattas (U of South Africa)	"Inviting the Wild into Our Communities: The Role of Urban Farming in Decolonising the Environment in South Africa"
11:20 – 11:50	5. Martin Gammon (U of Johannesburg)	Do Western Based Environmental Ethics Deserve Any Place in Africa?"
11:50 – 12:20	6. Priyansu Prajjwal (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India) - Online	"Who Speaks for Nature? Epistemic Injustice and the Decolonization of Conservation Knowledge"
12:20 – 13:20	Lunch (1 hour)	
13:20 – 13:50	7. Nokwanda Mbhele (U of Johannesburg)	"Beyond Human Exceptionalism: Applying AI Moral Agency Criteria to Some Non-Human Animals"
13:50– 14:20	8. Doreen Sesiro (U of Botswana) - Online	"Botho and Relational Environmental Ethics: Ecological Interdependence and the Evaluation of Biotechnological Enhancement"
14:20– 14:50	Tea Break (20 minutes)	
14:50 – 15:20	9. Juan Coetzee (NWU)	"An absurdist approach to tipping points: towards a better understanding of the climate change problem"
15:20 – 16:35	10. Ann C. (Anncy) Thresher - Online	Keynote – "Get Angry about Climate Change: The Environmental Crisis, Despair, and the Philosophy of Anger"
17:05 – 18:50	AGM	

27 August (Thursday) – Day 2

TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE
08:30 – 09:00	11. Nhlanhla Lebesi (U of Johannesburg)	"Care Under Constraint: Towards a Context-Sensitive Account of Companion Animal Welfare in South African Townships"
09:00 – 9:30	12. Shawn Simpson (NWU)	"The Problem of Progress in Environmental Philosophy"
9:30 – 10:00	13. D M B K Shashendra (U of Colombo, Sri Lanka) - Online	"Built Spaces and Environmental Values: Toward an Institutional Environmental Ethics in Sri Lanka"
10:00 – 10:20	Tea Break (20 minutes)	
10:20 – 10:50	14. Cassandra Kleynhans (U of Johannesburg)	"Climate Denial is a Growing Post-truth South Africa"
10:50 – 11:20	15. Odumayak Okpo (U of Uyo, Nigeria) – Online	"From Resources to Relatives: Ubuntu Ethics and the Axiological Reorientation of Climate Responsibility"
11:20 – 11:50	16. Asheel Singh (U of Johannesburg)	"Environmental Reasons to Passively Resist AI: Lessons from 20th Century Civil Rights Movements"
11:50 – 12:20	17. Samuel Otu Ishaya (U of Uyo, Nigeria)	"Aesthetic Existence: Why the Ordinay People Should Matter in Environmental Discourse"
12:20 – 13:20	Lunch (1 hour)	
13:20 – 13:50	18. Juan Oeschger (U of Pretoria)	"A Question of Place, Ecological Principles and Methods in Synthetic Environments"
13:50 – 14:20	19. Sejal Pandya (U of Mumbai, India) - Online	"How can we critically reflect of humanity's relationship to nature"
14:20 – 14:40	Tea Break (20 minutes)	
14:40 – 15:10	20. Nishok G U (Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India) - Online	"Can appeals to wildness provide a moral basis to resist the use of genetic interventions for coral conservation?"
	Conference Dinner	Loop St Restaurant Address: 37 Loop Street, Potchefstroom, 2531

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28 August (Friday) – Day 3

TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE
09:00 – 9:30	22. Catherine Botha (U of Johannesburg)	“The Heidegger and Deep Ecology Relationship Reconsidered: Contesting the Concept of Value”
9:30 – 10:00	23. SiphoSihle Wotshela (Rhodes) - Online	“Environmental Destruction as Self-Destruction: A Platonic Inquiry into Selfhood and Nature"
10:00 – 10:20	Tea Break (20 minutes)	
10:20 – 10:50	24. Bukonla Olisa (NWU)	“African Feminism, Eco-Solidarity, and the Challenges of Sustainable Ecological Futures”
10:50 – 11:20	25. Yolandi Coetser (NWU)	“The Four Quadrants of Ethical Risk (4QER): Rethinking the Ethics of Monetising Nature”
11:20-11:50	26. Grant Nash	Live Animal Exports and the Ontology of Animal Ethics: Jonas's Philosophical Biology and Heidegger's Diagnosis of Enframing
11:50 – 12:50	Lunch (1 hour)	
12:50 – 13:50	Roundtable Session	Patrick Ben

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