



Research in Population & Development in Africa

5th ISIBALO CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN YOUNG STATISTICIANS

13 – 17 JUNE 2016

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

FIRST INFORMATION BULLETIN & CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Date of Issue: 25 January 2016

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

5th ISIBalo Conference of African Young Statisticians

Theme: Population and Sustainable Development in Africa

Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA

13-17 June 2016

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

SELECTION PROCESS	TIMELINE
1 st 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	21 April 2016
Final Decision communicated to applicants	13 May 2016
5 th ISIBalo Conference of African Young Statisticians	13-17 June 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

In 2009, South Africa hosted the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). The ISI is a prestigious professional body of statisticians worldwide. Hosting the ISI Congress for the first time on the African continent, South Africa asked itself a question that remains relevant to this day: What value will South Africa and Africa yield in hosting this conference?

Painfully aware of the limited participation of African scientists in the statistical fraternity circles and their limited contribution to research and scholarly knowledge, and also painfully aware of the demographics of the African statistical community, the ISIBalo African Young Statisticians Programme was born.

This attempt to build capacity of Africa's youth in statistics and related disciplines that influence statistical development and evidence for policy making and planning began in 2008 with the 1st ISIBalo Conference of African Young Statisticians. The years since then have seen active participation of African young statisticians who congregate in Pretoria every two years to present scientific papers in a variety of theoretical and official statistics.

Eight years later, as we prepare for the 5th ISIBalo Conference of African Young Statisticians, we ask ourselves the same question as we did in 2009 and more:

- (a) As South Africa hosts the 28th International Population Conference of the International Union on the Scientific Studies of Population (IUSSP) in 2017, will African demographers, population scientists, official statisticians and population & development practitioners hold their own at the conference in 2017?
- (b) Have we sufficiently built the capacity of young statisticians to make a meaningful contribution to the study of population on Africa?
- (c) As the global community wrestle with notions of big data and the data revolution for Sustainable Development Goals and National Development Plans in this century, are we building the right capacity in our young professionals to meet these challenges going forward?
- (d) Are we pacing ourselves relative to the ongoing and even rapidly growing methodological discourse?

We will attempt to answer these questions in the months to come. But they have however led us towards changing direction in the pattern of ISIBalo Conferences of African Young Statisticians. The past four conferences have been a presentation of ad hoc papers whose basis of research we never looked into, nor did it matter what

relevance the paper had. A quick review shows a pattern of growing numbers of participants from tertiary and research institutions from particular regions of Africa. A gap is also emerging in the understanding of research, innovation and its linkages to official statistics and policy by our young professionals.

Ahead of the 28th International Population Conference in Cape Town in 2017, the 5th ISIBALO Conference of African Young Statisticians will adopt a new approach that will seek to build capacity of African young statisticians and other young professionals to undertake research that they identify as urgent or pertinent to social, economic and development issues in their countries and contribute to continental advances in statistical development. We start a focused attempt at building research capacity of young statisticians who can contribute to discourse on the demography of their continent. The Conference will also take advantage of being held in the week of 16 June 2016 to address the elusive topic of statistical leadership with young professionals as leaders of tomorrow's statistical community. The 16th June is a day celebrated in South Africa to commemorate brave and fearless young people in 1976 who dared to contest an oppressive education system, in what led to the Soweto Uprisings of 1976. To date, very little has been done to build future statistical leadership amongst African young statisticians.

2. 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.

3. 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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

4. HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN 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 are 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 will be required to submit a 1-2 page concept note on any topic of interest outlined above. A selection committee will review and select those concept notes that will meet a required standard, while displaying relevance of topic for consideration in participating in the mentorship programme towards the IUSSP meeting in 2017.
- (c) If your concept note has been selected, you will be 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) 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.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Please take note that co-authoring of any research proposal will be allowed but participation in the 5th ISIBALO Conference of African Young Statisticians in June 2016 and at the 28th International Population

Conference of the IUSSP in October 2017 will be limited to only ONE author.

- (g) Also take note that more than one concept note may be submitted by an African young statistician should you so wish to do so. However, the selection committee will reserve the right to accept or reject any concept note not deemed suitable for this project.
- (h) This process we are undertaking in the African Young Statisticians Programme is best suited for African young statisticians with a keen interest in research and publishing scientific papers. It is also best suited for African young statisticians currently reading or planning to read towards a Masters or PhD degree, or have recently completed either, and would like to share their research findings. Finally, 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.

5. FORMAT OF RESEARCH CONCEPT NOTE

Should an Africa young statisticians wish to participate in this year's conference and research programme, a research concept note must be submitted to Statistics SA by no later than 17h00 of FRIDAY 19 February 2016. The format of your concept should include:

Name:	Surname:	Country of birth:
		Country of residence:
Institution:	Male/Female	Date of Birth:
Contact details:		
Title of research project:		
TOPIC THEME contributing towards for 5 th ISibalo conference of African young statisticians		
Background and reasons for investigation:		
Objectives:		
Hypothesis if applicable:		
Methods and data sources:		
Expected research and policy-relevant outputs and outcomes:		
Ethical and risk considerations:		
Policy relevance nationally and cross-country or global contexts:		

All contributions should be submitted in electronic format preferably MS Word/RTF-Format before the deadline. Contributors should specify clearly the research theme in Section 3 (page 4) to which they are contributing. **Please also provide the full postal and e-mail addresses, as well as the telephone of the corresponding author as well as any co-authors.** We will correspond exclusively with the corresponding author.

All concept notes must be submitted by 17h00 of Friday 19 February 2016 to:

Mr Motimedi Sekhobela

MotimediSe@statssa.gov.za

Tel: +2712 310 2667

Cell: +2763 681 3207

Please note that only African young statisticians whose research concept notes have been selected will be invited to develop a full research proposal.

6. 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 results 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 and international learning institutions.