

SSAG 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

SUNDAY (13 September 2026)

13:00-17:00	SSAG Council meeting
17:30-18:30	Conference registration

DAY 1 MONDAY (14 September 2026)

08:00-08:30	Arrival and registration
08:30-09:00	Welcome address by the MANCO member
09:00-09:30	Opening address by SSAG President: Professor Zarina Patel
09:30-09:35	Introduction of a Keynote speaker:
09:35-10:30	Keynote address: Professor Patricia Noxolo (Birmingham University)

10:35-10:50 TEA BREAK

Time	Session 1A Climatology	Session 1B Agriculture and Food Security	Session 1C Tourism	Session 1D Environmental Governance	Session 1E Indigenous Knowledge Systems
11:00-11:15	Frederick Mokibelo Mashao Evaluating measurement redundancy and bias in radiosonde thermodynamic observations from closely spaced upper-air stations.	Sandra Bhaiwa Spatio-temporal dynamics of agro-ecological zones in Zimbabwe under climate change: implications for agricultural productivity and resilience.	Ngoni C. Shereni Community participation in tourism conservation Initiatives in recreational parks in Zimbabwe.	Leonard Chitongo Climate governance challenges in South Africa: a review of institutional, policy, and implementation gaps.	Nomfundo Sibiya Stakeholders' perceptions on the integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems into climate change policy frameworks in North West Province, South Africa.
11:15-11:30	Ariel Prinsloo Determining the risk of heat for camping: case studies from South Africa and Réunion Island.	Blessings Masuku Exploring climate resilience, nutrition and Indigenous Knowledge System nexus: a just transition to urban agriculture.	Maisa Correia Adinolfi Crowded shores, contested spaces: overtourism in Cape Town	Nerhene Davis Polycentric governance at the urban margins: co-producing just responses to air pollution and extreme heat.	Tiya Amanda Asanda Diversity and utilisation of wild edible plant species in three rural communities of the Eastern Cape, South Africa.
11:30-11:45	Bafana Gweba Influence of the Agulhas Current on crossing swells along South African coasts.	Smile Phumzile Shabangu Climate change vulnerability and the application of climate-smart agriculture in small-scale agroecosystems, Tonga, Mpumalanga Province.	Logistic Makoni Reframing informal curio trading through trader profiles, transnational mobility and urban tourism economies in Tshwane.	Lindokuhle Sibiya Socio-economic dynamics of overlapping traditional and municipal governance in Ntabamhlophe, South Africa: implications for SDG 16, rural development, and livelihoods	Amos T. Mthembu Collaboration among traditional health practitioners and between the traditional and biomedical health practitioners in the uMkhanyakude District Municipality.
11:45-12:00	Patricia Thandeka Methuko A historical analysis of thunderstorms and lightning events in Gauteng, by exploring seasonality and inter-annual variability, with associated temperature conditions.	Regis Musavengane Social capital for climate resilience in women's smallholder farming communities in Zvishavane, Zimbabwe.	Refiloe Lekgau Information, power, and resilience in wildlife tourism destinations in Southern Africa		Samantha Williams Geographies of exclusion and the role of traditional knowledge in South Africa's emerging oceans/ blue economy.

12:00-13:00 LUNCH BREAK

Time	Session 2A Climatology	Session 2B Urban Geographies	Session 2C Geography Education	Session 2D Water Resources	Session 2E Heritage and Culture
13:00-13:15	Mabunda Fanisa An assessment of urban heat and vulnerability at the high-resolution	Molefe KC Bridging the gap: evaluating Urban Planning and Urban Digital Twins	Ntombifuthi Nzimande Green campus initiatives in South African higher education	Kyle van Heyde Macrodebris as a vector for microbial transport in urban rivers:	Julia Giddy Mapungubwe National Park: the politics of heritage.

	grid-based (sub-ward) scale in Johannesburg and Braamfontein, South Africa	through the Doughnut Economic Framework.	institutions: developments, challenges and prospects for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.	insights from the Jukskei River, South Africa. (Online)	
13:15-13:30	Nkosinathi G. Xulu Extreme flood risk associated with recent Cut-Off Lows in eThekweni, South Africa.	Nondumiso Fortunate Gumede The socio-economic development impacts of African migrants' informal enterprises in the Mandeni local municipality.	Sabelo Tshabalala Geographical perspectives on Curriculum Transformation at an ODeL institution.	Mpendulo Thulare On the efficacy of community-based natural resources management as a driver of community empowerment at Jozini Dam, South Africa.	Manfred Spocter Present in the archive, absent from history: the first Black members of the South African Geographical Society.
13:30-13:45	Sharma Chauke Comparing heatwave events to the Synoptic Spatial Classification (SSC) of extreme heat for South Africa. (Online)	Samukele Ngema The application of a built environment crime resilience index to evaluate the influence of the built environment on crime patterns in subsidised housing neighbourhoods: the case of Cape Town.	Sanet Carow Student profiles of at-risk students in an ODeL environment: a geographical perspective.	Tokozani Mangesi-Nxitywa Community perceptions and socio-economic impacts of abandoned borrow pit lakes in the O.R. Tambo District Municipality.	Fiona Drummond Murals without a masterplan: Bottom-up street art for urban renewal in Makhanda.
13:45-14:00	Singo, M.V A WRF simulation of the July 2023 snowfall event over South Africa.	Siphiwo Gumbi Urban renewal strategies for a transient zone: a case study of Southernwood, East London.	Thoko Poppy Mahlangu Geography for Sustainable Development: effective and innovative teaching in Geography.	Lokuthula Msimanga Intersecting inequalities: a household-level WEF nexus assessment in Thabo Mofutsanyane District, South Africa.	Shayna Rosendorff De/constructing an African Metalandscape: Space / Place / Landscape. (Online)
14:00-14:15	Khanyisile Motseta Spatiotemporal trends in Spatial Synoptic Classification (SSC) scores for Extreme Heat Events (EHEs) across South Africa.	Kholeka Mtshali Quantifying the environmental and economic benefits of green urban ecological infrastructure for climate adaptation in Johannesburg, using i-Tree Canopy.	Pamella Shabalala Environmental education as intergenerational learning: repositioning the Zibanjwa Zisemaphuphu Framework within geography in a changing environment.	Siphosethu Marvin Nkosi Analysing the drivers of intermittent domestic water supply in the Mahikeng Local Municipality, South Africa.	James Drummond Culture beyond the metropole: lessons from festivals in two South African provincial capitals.
14:15-14:30	Lindumusa Myeni Impacts of climate change on atmospheric water demands in Limpopo Province, South Africa.	Leonard Chitongo Urban informality, flood risk, and adaptive planning in Southern Africa: comparative insights from Namibia, South Africa, and Botswana.	Tiani Weper How does lived experiences contribute to Education for Sustainable Development? Perspectives from Namibia, Africa.	Sindiswa Tilane Transforming water futures: leadership pathways for climate-resilient governance in South Africa: a study of the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality.	Orli Bass Libraries and literature: assessing the literary infrastructure of Durban as a UNESCO City of Literature.
14:30-14:45	Sarah Roffe Defining climate suitability for sheep using data-driven thresholds: application to future projections in the Karoo, South Africa (Online).	Manesh Nagar From gravel to growth: leveraging stakeholder participation for inclusive decision-making for road upgrading in Chatty and Joe Slovo, Gqeberha.	Danitza Kloppe Educating for impact: transforming geography classrooms into hubs for Sustainable Waste Management.	Balindile Khumalo To assess the utility of Sentinel-2 in quantifying E. coli concentration in surface water bodies.	Lisbeth Young Disentangling African realities through graphic novels.
14:45-15:00	Runakorwashe Kanengoni Exploring the Spatial Synoptic Classification (SSC) of heat against tourists' and locals' perceptions in Gauteng.	Mathabo Lifero Spatial dynamics and economic growth: a case study of Daveyton's local development.	Michael Meadows Geography for the information age: building capacity, literacy, and sustainability in the digital Anthropocene.	Siyabonga Mthethwa Hydroflora.	Huresha Padayachee A spatial analysis of the built environment heritage and conservation in Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

15:00-15:15 AFTERNOON TEA BREAK					
Time	Session 3A Waste Management	Session 3B Remote Sensing and GIS	Session 3C Biogeography and conservation	Session 3D Social Geographies	Session 3E Tourism
15:15-15:30	Raeesa Moolla Prevalence of plastic waste as a household fuel in low-income communities of the Global South.	Tendo Mugwena Reimagining pharmaceutical governance through GIS: strengthening primary healthcare systems in Limpopo, South Africa.	Jennifer Fitchett Exploring altitudinal variations in the distribution of diatoms across Lesotho.	Sagie Narsiah The rise of self-service democracy in South Africa.	Nomfundo Radebe Small-scale accommodation and its impact on large hotel chains: a sustainable development perspective from Mpumalanga.
15:30-15:45	Thea Schoeman E-waste: the informal sector operations, training of the informal sector and volume and recycling behaviour of households.	Eugene Ratshiedana Ensemble machine learning for high-resolution soil moisture estimation using unmanned aerial vehicle images (Online).	Kwanele Phinzi Mapping the spread of woody invasive species across major vegetation types of KwaZulu-Natal coastal environments, South Africa.	Kubiku Kozanai Dispossessed, divided, relocated: resistance and inequality in South Africa’s Platinum belt.	Emely Rammutla Residents’ perceptions of tourism development: evidence from Mataffin, Mbombela, South Africa.
15:45-16:00	Tembani Nelisa Exploring the potential for industrial symbiosis in advancing sustainable waste management in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality.	Emma van Nierop Geomorphological mapping of landscapes in Western Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica, using geospatial methods.	Pippin Anderson Navigating biodiversity, climate, and justice in our cities.	Masego Motsumi Invisibility in disaster recovery programmes: indigenous women's access to resources in rural South Africa.	Carmen Kganane Hot property, cool stays: evaluating the predominance of air-conditioning in Airbnbs across South Africa.
16:00-16:15	Jackie Hlomuka Improving solid waste management in a coal mining organisation: a case of Mafube Coal.	Cole Battell Landslide susceptibility mapping using GIS, remote sensing, and multi-layer perceptrons in the Cape Winelands, South Africa.	Alexandra Dalziel Policy and governance of multiple-use protected areas in South Africa.	Caitlin Daniels Blurring the lines of identity: a spatial-temporal analysis of coloured identity in suburban Johannesburg and Cape Town.	Gustav Visser Applying Butler’s tourism areas lifecycle and Plog’s psychographic personality types to a small town in South Africa.
16:15-16:30	Linton F. Munyai Spatial distribution of illegal waste dumping sites across settlement types in an urbanised environment.	Zandile Mncube Can nighttime light data serve as a proxy for economic dynamics? An evaluation of the relationship between NTL radiance and GDP in South African cities.	Clare Kelso Environmental values and perceptions of conservation amongst visitors to Kruger National Park.	Lauren Buchanan Everything is changing, but some things stay the same.	Phillibert Sibusiso When governance collapses: emerging failures in tourism governance at South African tourism.
16:30-16:45	Christel Hansen Geospatial distribution and drivers of opportunistic waste dumping in Mabopane, City of Tshwane, South Africa.	Sithokozile Samkelisiwe Mhlambi Co-production of early warning systems for extreme rainfall storms using GIS, remote sensing and local Knowledge in Ndwedwe Local Municipality.	James Gregory Jacaranda blooms online: digital media and human–nature interaction in Gauteng, South Africa.	Wandile The influence of coal mining and industrialisation on rural livelihoods in Dundee.	Siyabulela Nyikana Regenerative tourism, inclusive growth and rural transformation in South Africa
16:45-17:15	Address by Dr Tinashe (Online)				
17:20-17:45	Address by Esri-South Africa				
DAY 2 TUESDAY (15 September 2026)					
08:00-08:45	Registration				
08:45-09:00	Introduction of the keynote speaker: Dr Mandla Dlamini				
09:00-10:00	Keynote address — Professor Sifiso Xulu (University of South Africa)				
10:00-10:30 TEA BREAK					
Time	Session 1A	Session 1B	Session 1C	Session 1D	Session 1E

	Urban Geographies	Remote Sensing and GIS	Water Resources	Agriculture and Food Security	Environmental Governance
10:30-10:45	Adrian Nel Post-apartheid peri-urban spatiality: trajectories of peri-urban transformation in Greater Pietermaritzburg, KZN.	Thifhatelwi Junior Delineation and mapping of gully sites in a semi-arid landscape. (Online).	Guy Rudolph Public-private partnerships for financing water.	Mbali Manyaka Understanding local perceptions of the impact of seasonal changes in grassland green fractional vegetation cover and grazing adaptation strategies: a participatory GIS study in communal rangelands.	Raeesa Moolla Strong demand for clean air policies in four Majority World cities.
10:45-11:00	Alan Mabin Challenges of university–city relationships: reflections from South Africa.	Boitumelo Radijeje Modelling soil moisture variability using environmental variables and machine learning approaches.	Esina Mpakamele Motene Assessing urban hydrological dynamics and flood risk in the river systems of Kruger National Park under changing climatic conditions. (Online)	Vuwani Makuya Historical impact of climate change and progress of genetic traits on yield in the major soybean (<i>Glycine max</i> L.) growing provinces of South Africa.	Anton de Wit Greenwashing in sustainability reports: a framework-based analysis of JSE-Listed basic materials companies. (Online)
11:00-11:15	Nothile Ndimande Planning inertia: unrecognised urban futures in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.	Seima Radichaba Charles Madiba Spatiotemporal changes in land use and land cover in Drakenstein Local Municipality.	Sinoxolo Soya A comparative analysis of Random Forest (RF) and Support Vector Machine (SVM)-based regionalisation techniques for streamflow estimation in the Mgwala River Catchment, Ngqushwa, Eastern Cape.	Avuzwa Nkosazana Mahleba Climate-smart agriculture adoption and food security among smallholder farmers in Limpopo, South Africa.	Wisdom Okere From climate to nature: a systematic review of biodiversity disclosure and readiness in South Africa. (Online)
11:15-11:30	Priscila Banda Policy-praxis mismatch in peri-urban infrastructure configuration with development: a case study of Nandoni peri-urbanity, Thohoyandou, Limpopo Province, South Africa.	Sandiswa Zama Gwala Modelling flood risk within eThekweni Municipality using varied DEM resolutions and environmental data within an Analytical Hierarchy Process Framework.			Sabelo Tshabalala Governance as a tool for fostering sustainable development in local municipalities: a case study of Ekurhuleni, South Africa.
11:30-11:45	Christina Culwick Fatti Infrastructures of just urban transitions: a postcolonial perspective from South Africa.	Reneilwe Maake Intra-seasonal quantification of above-ground grass carbon stock in Savannah ecosystems using SAR and topographic variables.			Leani van Vuuren The next generation of North-South partnerships: lessons from advocating for African-led equitable partnerships.
12:00-13:00 LUNCH BREAK					
Time	Session 2A Climatology	Session 2B Geography Education	Session 2C Biogeography and conservation	Session 2D Social Geographies	Session 2E Health Geography
13:00-13:15	Ramontsheng Rapolaki Storm surges associated with cut-off low-pressure systems along the South African coast.	Farina Lindeque From noticing to acting: evaluating place-based social learning for environmental stewardship at a primary school in Limpopo	Sive Lento Investigating the integration of invasive alien plant species and illegal dumping: a geospatial analysis of Qumrha, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.	Alex Wafer Always-already collapsing: territories of the Anthropocene.	Sailas Hussein Matamanda Beyond averages: boundary behaviours, climatic extremes, and the emerging climate-malaria instability in Mpumalanga (2000-2024).
13:15-13:30	Kanyisa Makubalo Enhancing nowcasting and early warning systems in Africa: the role	Mkhonto BP Investigating learners' perceptions and misconceptions of recycling in	Mohamedi Dalley A systematic review on community and stakeholder perceptions of fire	Delia Ah Goo Shifting spaces: a geosemiotic analysis of the linguistic landscape of the inner city of Johannesburg.	Elizabeth Carr Spatial variability in heat stress during weekend morning running across four South African cities.

	of Meteosat Third Generation (MTG) in a changing environment.	the context of geography education and environmental studies.	occurrences and management in the Grassland Biomes.		
13:30-13:45	Adeline Ngie A re-evaluation of UHll over the City of Johannesburg using remote sensing.	Izelque Botha The Geography of Climate Engagement for Sustainability: Mapping the Digital Paradox and Structural Barriers among South African University Students	Fannie M. Masina Evaluating the effectiveness of current management strategies for aquatic invasive species in protected areas in Mpumalanga, South Africa	Kristel Fourie Understanding Community Participation: Respondent Priorities and Definitions from research in Malawi.	Africa Ndude Insights into Spatial Accessibility of Primary Healthcare in the Cape Town District, South Africa
13:45-14:00	Bubele Rasmeni Trends in marine heatwaves along the KZN coastline and implications for coral reefs.	Gavin Heath Herge's Tintin comic novels and the geography component of the curriculum and assessment statement (Social Sciences, Senior Phase).	Moleboheng Pherane The role of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in strengthening wetland conservation in Southern Africa.	Ashley Gunter Moving money, making inequality: postcolonial economies and the subaltern student.	Thea Earnest Exploring the link between meteorological conditions and the rate of influx of patients in the emergency department at Far East Rand Hospital, Gauteng.
14:00-14:15	Lauren Smith Operational marine forecasting in a changing coastal environment: insights from the South African Weather Service.	Clinton David van der Merwe The representation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in grade 11 geography textbooks.	Mphisedzeni Godwin Nemakhavhani A systematic review of wildfire emissions from grassland and savanna biomes in Southern Africa.	Ronnie Donaldson Rugby, race and a crate of beer - a historical documentary of the first multiracial rugby club in Stellenbosch.	Kayleigh Raines-Deetlefs The risk of heat stress in wine farm labourers on South African wine farms.
14:15-14:30	Marshall L. Mdoka Recent research and developments on weather events and climate variability over South Africa.		Danie Boshoff Geographical trends in fire management approaches: Grassland ecosystems.	Ronnie Donaldson (continue)	Palesa Molefe Emerging thermal risks in emergency departments: A comparison of daytime and night-time heat stress in a Gauteng hospital during Summer 2025/6.
14:30-14:45	Nayita Annastasia Kamenye Assessing thermal comfort at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) Auckland Park Kingsway (APK) Campus Library.		Oscar Gwala Living on the edge: Understanding community perceptions of Human Wildlife conflict in communities adjacent to Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.	Thendo Mugwena Reimagining pharmaceutical governance through GIS: strengthening primary healthcare systems in Limpopo, South Africa.	Anro Stanford Evaluating the thermal suitability and Humidex validity of learning and recreational spaces at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.
15:00-15:15 AFTERNOON TEA BREAK					
Time	Session 3A Tourism	Session 3B Social Geographies	Session 3C Health Geography	Session 3D Indigenous Knowledge Systems	Session 3E Climate Change Adaptation
15:15-15:30	Swazi Nkwatsi Mountain tourism Landscapes as contested socio-ecological spaces: evidence from Lesotho.	Gustav Visser Gay peripheries within metropolitan peripheries: partial notes from South Africa for Africa and beyond.	Mukhtaar Waja Timing is everything: uncertainty and rigour in climate and mental health research.	Leizel Williams-Bruinders Place-based resilience: the role of indigenous knowledge and sense of place in disaster risk reduction.	Brilliant Randy Ntshangule Implementation conditions and readiness of municipal climate action in the North West province.
15:30-15:45	Mike de Vivo Landscape interpretation, responsible tourism, and the geographer's role.	Chido Muzanenhamo Gender justice in the urbanisation emerging from within rural contexts: Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.	Ikhira Dawood Compound stressors and urban well-being: resident experiences of heat stress and water insecurity in Johannesburg, South Africa.		Nisa Ayob Developing a climate change adaptation baseline using climate indices for the North West province, South Africa
15:45-16:00	Pharron Van Boven (Online) Exploring tourism suitability and tourist thermal (dis)comfort across	Ntokozo Mbanjwa Rural-urban migration and its implications on female-headed	Tshepiso Mogale		

	tourist attractions in the Western Cape, South Africa.	households in Bulwer, KwaZulu-Natal.	Thermal stress risk to skateboarding in Johannesburg, South Africa.		
16:00-17:00	SSAG BGM (closed session for members only)				
19:00-22:00	GALA DINNER AND GOLD AND FELLOWSHIP AWARD CEREMONY				

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY (16 September 2026)	
05:30	Departure for Kruger National Park and Kaapsehoop Field Trips
07:00-07:30	Registration
08:30-09:00	Registration for the SSAG Writing Retreat (Participants with selected papers only)
09:00-16:00	SSAG Writing Retreat
16:30-18:30	SSAG Student Conference Registration
19:00-20:30	Welcome Cocktail Event for Students