

# NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### Changing Tides: Advancing Ocean Law Curriculum Development and Integration in Maritime Education and Training in South Africa



**DATE:** Friday, 23 August 2024



**VENUE:** Protea Hotel, Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa

## Brief Overview

The conference will provide a unique platform for academics, students, industry professionals, government officials and members of the maritime law community to engage in discussions and share insights on various aspects of ocean law. The mid-morning session will feature a keynote address showcasing the South African International Maritime Institute-funded project on ocean law curriculum development and integration into maritime qualifications across NQF levels 5-9 at a range of tertiary institutions involved in maritime education and training in South Africa. This will be followed by a plenary discussion exploring future directions for curriculum development and integration. The lunch and afternoon sessions will feature presentations by established researchers and students on the intersection of ocean law with artificial intelligence & cyber risk, maritime security & governance, environmental conservation & sustainability, and the blue economy & resource management. By bringing together a dynamic array of participants and presenters, the conference is sure to ignite vibrant discussions and promise a stimulating exchange of new ideas.

The conference is held on 23 August 2024 in Stellenbosch in order to make it possible for the conference participants to also attend the Maritime Law Association annual conference to be held in Franschoek on 24-25 August 2024, and vice versa.



# Conference Programme

- 09H00 Registration
- 10H00 Welcome & Opening Remarks by the Conference Organisers
- 10H10 Spotlight address: Adv Lisa Mills, Chairperson, Maritime Law Association of South Africa
- 10H20 Keynote presentation: Prof Patrick Vrancken,  
The South African International Maritime Institute Ocean Law Curriculum Project
- 11H00 Plenary discussion
- 12H00 Lunch
- 13H00 Tracks 1 & 2: 2 conference papers (25 min each) & 1 student presentation (5-10 min)  
Questions (30 minutes)
- 14H30 Afternoon tea
- 15H00 Tracks 3 & 4: 2 conference papers (25 min each) & 1 student presentation (5-10 min)  
Questions (30 minutes)
- 16H30 Closing
- 18H30 Evening drinks followed by dinner at the hotel for overnight guests (price quoted separately, not included in conference package)

# Submission of Abstracts:

Authors are invited to submit an anonymised abstract of between 500-700 words, presented in MS Word, Arial, 10 pt font, single spaced, by 31 May 2024, to Ammaarah.Abrahams@mandela.ac.za. File to be named 'Changing tides conference - abstract title - track no'.

- 1. Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Risk:** This track will explore the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and cyber risk in the maritime industry, highlighting the challenges and vulnerabilities arising from technological advancements. Papers must not be purely technical in nature. Submissions must include a clear focus on the scope and role of ocean law regulatory and policy frameworks, e.g. in enhancing maritime operations through technological adoption and mitigating cyber threats.
- 2. Maritime Security and Governance:** Focussing on the legal frameworks and policies governing maritime security, this track will examine issues such as piracy, maritime terrorism, border disputes, and international cooperation in maintaining maritime safety and security.
- 3. Environmental Conservation and Sustainability:** This track will explore the intersection of ocean law with environmental conservation efforts, addressing topics such as marine pollution, sustainable fisheries management, climate change mitigation strategies and marine and coastal zone management.
- 4. Blue Economy and Resource Management:** Focusing on the legal aspects of harnessing marine resources for economic development, this track will cover topics such as offshore energy exploration, seabed mining regulations, maritime trade agreements, and the promotion of sustainable blue economy initiatives.

**Review and Selection Process:** Abstracts will be subject to blind peer review by an academic committee that will evaluate submissions based on relevance, originality, and quality of the research presented.



# Presentation Format:

The format of presentations will include two categories.

**Full Paper Presentations (25 minutes):** This category is reserved for presenters who will deliver comprehensive presentations based on full-length papers. Each presenter will have a designated time slot of 25 minutes to present their research findings, insights, and recommendations. Presenters are required to submit a full paper not exceeding 7000 words (including abstract and footnotes) and adhering to the style guidelines of *Obiter*.

**Emerging Researcher Presentations (5-10 minutes):** This category is specifically designed for emerging researchers (including students) to share their research in a shorter format. Each presenter will be allocated a time slot of 5 to 10 minutes to deliver their presentation, providing a concise overview of their work and findings. Emerging researchers and students are encouraged to submit comprehensive papers for potential inclusion in the published conference proceedings.

**Please note:** Accepted presenters are required to register and, if traveling from out of town, pay for the conference by the deadline (below), in order to secure their presentation slot.



# Conference Proceedings:

The conference organisers are pleased to announce that selected papers will have the opportunity to be published in a special edition of *Obiter*, a prestigious, open-access academic journal publishing high-quality research relevant to the development of South African law. Authors of accepted abstracts are encouraged to submit full papers for consideration, adhering to the journal's style guidelines. This special edition offers an excellent opportunity for contributors to disseminate their research findings to a wider audience and contribute to the scholarly discourse on ocean law curriculum development and integration in maritime education and training. Do not miss this chance to showcase your work and make a lasting impact in the field.

We look forward to receiving your abstract submissions and welcoming you to the Tides of Change conference in August 2024.

# Important Dates:

**Submission of Abstracts:** 31 May 2024

**Notification of Acceptance and registration deadline:** 30 June 2024

**Submission of Full Paper and/or PowerPoint Presentation:** 15 August 2024

**Submission of Revised Full Paper:** 30 September 2024

**Publication:** early in 2025



# Registration, Travel and Accommodation

**Registration deadline:** 30 June 2024 (no fee)

**Accommodation:** There is a limited number of bedrooms available at reduced rate at the conference venue

**Sponsorships:** A limited number of sponsorships are available to cover the costs of travel and accommodation.

Further information can be obtained from the contact person (see below).

## Conference Organizing Committee:

- Prof P Vrancken: incumbent of the SARChI Chair in the Law of the Sea and Development in Africa
- Dr D Donnelly: Director, Unit of Maritime Law & Maritime Studies, School of Law, University of KwaZulu-Natal
- Prof G Bradfield: Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town
- Dr T Simelane: Postdoctoral Fellow, SARChI Chair in the Law of the Sea and Development in Africa

### Contact Information:

For enquiries, please contact **Ms Ammaarah Abraham** (email: [Ammaarah.Abrahams@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Ammaarah.Abrahams@mandela.ac.za); tel: 041504 1931)

