



## Second call for papers

2017 International Symposium on Place Names:

### ***Critical toponymy: Place names in political, historical and commercial landscapes***

Jointly organised by the Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy, the UFS and UNAM  
University of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia, 18–20 September 2017

### [Conference page](http://www.ufs.ac.za/conferences/conference/2017-international-symposium-on-place-names)

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The [Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy](#), the [Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment](#) at the University of the Free State (UFS), and the [Department of Language and Literature Studies](#) at the University of Namibia (UNAM) cordially invite proposals for the next bi-annual international symposium on place names.

The advent of critical theory in humanities and social sciences is reflected in the rise of critical toponymy. This approach explores the social, cultural, economic, political, and etymological origins of place names, and also considers how their meaning(s) change over time. As such, the landscape emerging from old and new place names can be constructed through physical, historical, or commercial evidence.

Such a method is possible because place names serve as historical records. They reflect the (changeable) geographical characteristics of a specific place, which includes the vegetation and animal life. Significant events and people are remembered via place naming. Even structures of social organisation, including political regimes and commercial enterprises, motivate the choice of names. As such, place names are also forms of (shared) cultural and linguistic heritage.

Place names are therefore important symbolic markers in reserving or changing cultural identities, and in marking or facilitating socio-political changes and relations. This role cannot be understood without thoroughly exploring the origin and meanings of place names.

### **Potential subtopics**

Abstracts (300-500 words) are submitted on-line on the conference page in the following (but not limited to) categories of research:

- Administrative dimensions of place names
- Commercial and/or economic dimensions of place names
- Cultural dimensions of place names
- Historical and/or commemorative dimensions of place names
- Linguistic dimensions of place names
- Physical dimensions of place names
- Political dimensions of place names
- Etymology of place names
- Place name changes



## Keynote speakers

- **Peter E. Raper** (RSA): Member of the Steering Board, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy; Research Fellow & Professor Extraordinaire in Linguistics, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS
- **Matthias Brenzinger** (RSA): Director of CALDi (Centre for African Language Diversity) at UCT, General Secretary of WOCAL (World Congress of African Linguistics)

## Scientific council and paper selection committee

- **Herman Beyer** (Namibia): Department of Language and Literature Studies, UNAM
- **Paulo Márcio Leal de Menezes** (Brazil): ICA Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy
- **Peter Jordan** (Austria): Common Vice-Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy
- **Lucie A. Möller** (RSA): Research Fellow, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS
- **Cosimo Palagiano** (Italy): IGU Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy
- **Peter E. Raper** (RSA): Member of the Steering Board, Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy; Research Fellow & Professor Extraordinaire in Linguistics, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS
- **Theodorus du Plessis** (RSA): Director, Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment, UFS

## Important dates

### Abstracts

- Deadline for abstract submissions: 17 April 2017
- Feedback from scientific panel: 8 May 2017

### Registrations

- Registrations ([online](#)): open: February 2017
- Early Bird deadline: 14 July 2017
- Registration deadline: 4 August 2017
- Proof of payment deadline: 14 August 2017

**Language of the symposium:** English (special requests may be considered, subject to financial constraints)

### Conference fees (in South African Rand):

	Academic	Student
Early Bird	R 2,850	R 1,710
Standard	R 3,420	R 2,850

**Cultural tour:** R 1,720 – see [conference page](#) for further details

**Publication:** Depending on the number and quality of papers, an accredited publication will be considered, subject to page fees.

**Queries** can be directed to the organising committee at [kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za](mailto:kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za).

The conference will be directly followed by the short learning programme, '[Geographical Names: Management and Practice](#)'.

