

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**RESEARCH INTEGRITY IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:
DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE ACCOUNTABILITY**

11 December 2025

1. Introduction

Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI) is mandated to conduct research that responds to provincial needs. MKRI conducts research in various strategic sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture, green economy, ICT, rural and township economy, among others. As the premier research institute, MKRI is entrusted with providing strategic advisory services to the province on new developments, trends, policies and opportunities that shape our socio-economic landscape. In keeping with its mandate, MKRI proudly announces its Call for Abstracts for the upcoming 2025 annual research conference themed: ***Research Integrity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Developing Knowledge Accountability.***

This theme responds to the evolving research landscape, where technological advancements, particularly artificial intelligence, are reshaping the ways knowledge is generated, evaluated and disseminated. The conference seeks to interrogate the opportunities and challenges presented by AI within the research ecosystem and to explore frameworks that ensure rigour, transparency and accountability in an era of accelerated knowledge production.

2. Overview

The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has begun to reshape the landscape of scientific research in profound ways. Across disciplines, AI tools now support tasks ranging from routine automation and literature retrieval to complex data analysis, pattern recognition and predictive modelling (Limongi, 2024; Enciso, 2025). The capacity of AI systems to process and analyse vast datasets with a speed and precision that far exceed human capabilities has accelerated discovery, optimised research workflows and opened new frontiers of inquiry. Recent advances in generative AI further extend this transformation by popularising human-machine interaction through natural language prompts rather than specialised programming skills, thereby lowering technical entry barriers and altering who can access sophisticated analytical capabilities (Stokel-Walker, 2023).

As AI systems increasingly participate in literature synthesis, coding, visualisation and even text generation, they complicate conventional notions of authorship, originality and expertise (Amirjalili, Neysani, & Nikbakht, 2024; Begum, 2025) At the same time, a growing body of work highlights the risks associated with opaque algorithms, data biases, hallucinated outputs and the potential erosion of research integrity when AI tools are used uncritically or without disclosure (Limongi, 2024). Against this backdrop, questions of ethics, transparency and accountability become central: How should AI use be documented? Where does responsibility

lie when AI contributes to a research output? And what new standards are required to safeguard rigour, trust and integrity in an AI-enabled research ecosystem?

3. Conference Themes

Abstracts are invited on the following sub-themes (including but not limited to):

a) Transparency and Disclosure in AI-Supported Research Practices:

- How can researchers distinguish between acceptable AI assistance and substantive contributions that must be openly disclosed?
- What risks arise when AI use is not disclosed and how does this affect credibility, reproducibility and trust in research findings?

b) Rethinking Research Integrity in Hybrid Human-AI Knowledge Production:

- How does the integration of AI into research challenge traditional notions of authorship, originality and intellectual responsibility?
- What ethical considerations emerge when research outputs are co-produced by humans and AI systems and how should accountability be distributed?
- How can researchers ensure that human judgment, contextual understanding and disciplinary expertise remain central in AI-assisted knowledge production?

c) Ensuring Rigour and Verification When Using AI-Generated Outputs:

- What methods and checks are necessary to validate the accuracy, reliability and coherence of AI-generated analyses or text?
- How can researchers detect and address AI-generated errors such as hallucinations, misinterpretations, or fabricated citations?
- What standards or verification protocols should be adopted to ensure that AI-assisted findings meet established thresholds of methodological rigour?

d) The Role of Human Judgment and Expertise in AI-Augmented Research:

- Which aspects of research must remain grounded in human expertise to maintain scholarly integrity?
- How can researchers balance AI-generated suggestions with their own critical reasoning to avoid over-reliance on automated outputs?
- In what ways can human oversight ensure that AI-assisted processes align with disciplinary standards, ethical norms, and sound methodological practice?

e) Pedagogical Implications: Building Researcher Competencies in an AI-Enabled Environment:

- What foundational skills do emerging and established researchers need to critically and responsibly use AI tools in their scholarly work?
- What role should supervisors, institutions, and curricula play in guiding researchers to balance technological efficiency with scholarly rigour and integrity?

f) Reflections from Practice: Case-Based Insights on the Strengths and Limitations of AI in Research:

- What do real-world examples reveal about the value and shortcomings of AI tools across different stages of the research process?
- Which practical challenges have emerged in applied research settings using AI?

g) Future Directions: Shaping the Next Generation of Research Integrity in an AI-Driven World:

- How might evolving AI capabilities reshape future standards of research and scholarly communication?
- What long-term ethical and methodological safeguards are needed to ensure that AI strengthens rather than undermines research integrity?
- Which emerging trends, technologies, or governance models should institutions anticipate as they prepare for an increasingly AI-integrated research ecosystem?

4. Abstract Format and Submission Requirements

Interested participants are invited to submit an abstract that demonstrates a clear conceptual foundation, strong theoretical grounding and, where applicable, empirical insight. Submissions should reflect a coherent argument, well-articulated purpose and explicit alignment with the conference theme. Abstracts must be written in clear academic language and should outline the central issue, methodological orientation (if relevant), and the anticipated contribution to debates on research integrity in the age of artificial intelligence.

- **Length:** Abstracts should not exceed 300 words and must present a concise yet comprehensive overview of the proposed paper.
- **Keywords:** Provide **five (5)** keywords that capture the core concepts, themes or methods reflected in the abstract.

- **Author Information:** Include the full name, institutional affiliation, country and contact email of the corresponding author. Where applicable, co-authors should also be listed with their full details.
- **Formatting:** Abstracts should be submitted in Microsoft Word (DOC/DOCX) or PDF format, using clear, standard academic formatting. Please ensure that the title of the abstract is clearly indicated at the top of the document.
- **Submission Email:** All abstracts should be submitted electronically to: Sanelisiwe.Gumede@moseskotane.com
- **Review Process:** Submitted abstracts will undergo a peer review process to assess relevance, clarity, originality and alignment with the conference theme.
- **Notification:** Authors will be notified of the outcome according to the timelines communicated in the Call for Abstracts.

5. Timelines

- Abstract Submission Deadline: **27 November 2025**
- Notification of Acceptance: **4 December 2025**
- Presentation Submission (Slides or Extended Abstract): **9 December 2025**
- Conference Date: **11 December 2025**

6. Registration and Fees

Participation in the conference is free of charge; however, registration is compulsory for all attendees, including presenters. Registration details and the online registration form will be circulated following the acceptance of abstracts.

7. Publication Opportunities

Selected high-quality papers presented at the conference will be considered for inclusion in the following post-conference publications:

Conference Proceedings:

A curated collection of extended abstracts or full papers submitted by confirmed presenters.

- **Special Issue / Edited Volume (Subject to Editorial Review):**
Outstanding papers may be invited for submission to a themed publication focusing on research integrity and AI-assisted knowledge production.

Further information on submission requirements, timelines and review processes will be communicated after the conference.

8. Conference Format: Online

The conference will be hosted fully online. All sessions will be conducted via a secure virtual conferencing platform. Details regarding access links, session schedules and technical guidance will be provided to registered participants closer to the event date.

9. Who Should Attend?

- Academic researchers and scholars ;
- Postgraduate students;
- Public- and private-sector research practitioners;
- Policy institutions, think tanks and research councils;
- Policymakers and Government Representatives;
- Industry Professionals and Business Leaders;
- Community Stakeholders and Civil Society Organisations.

Join the conversation...

As artificial intelligence continues to reshape the research landscape, the need for clarity, accountability and integrity has never been more urgent. This conference provides a timely platform to engage critically with these shifts, strengthen responsible research practices, and contribute to the development of a future-ready knowledge ecosystem. We invite scholars, practitioners and emerging researchers to join this important conversation and advance collective thinking on research integrity in the age of AI.

We look forward to your insightful contributions and active participation.

References

- Amirjalili, F., Neysani, M., & Nikbakht, A. (2024). Exploring the boundaries of authorship: A comparative analysis of AI-generated text and human academic writing in English literature. *In Frontiers in Education, 9*, 1347421.
- Begum, S. (2025). AI and Literature: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Creative Writing and Narrative Forms. *Journal of Social Signs Review, 3*(06), 180-199.
- Enciso, R. E. (2025). Artificial Intelligence in Research: Enhancing Efficiency or Compromising Integrity? A Systematic Review.
- Limongi, R. (2024). The use of artificial intelligence in scientific research with integrity and ethics. *Future Studies Research Journal: Trends and Strategies, 16*(1), e845-e845.
- Stokel-Walker, C. (2023). ChatGPT listed as author on research papers: many scientists disapprove.