

International Congress and Convention B.V.

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HO: Alpha Tower, De Entree 57

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ICCA Congress 2026 – Special Research Stream

Emerging Perspectives: Rethinking Value, Legacy, and Knowledge in Convention Tourism and Events

ICCA Congress 2026

Panama City, Panama | 8-11 November 2026

Research Stream Chair:

Prof Nellie Swart

University of South Africa (UNISA)

Email: swartmp@unisa.ac.za

About the Research Stream

We are pleased to announce a **Special Research Stream** to be held as part of the **ICCA Congress 2026 in Panama City, Panama**.

The convention and business events sector is undergoing a profound transformation. Pressures related to sustainability, destination carrying capacity, labour conditions, digital platform power, geopolitical fragmentation, and changing professional expectations are challenging long-standing assumptions about growth, value creation, and legacy in convention tourism and events.

Who should participate in the special Research Stream?

This research stream provides a dedicated forum for **academics, students and industry-engaged researchers** to exchange, share, and critically examine emerging perspectives on convention tourism and events. The goal is to stimulate dialogue, challenge dominant narratives, and develop new theoretical, empirical, and methodological insights that are relevant to both academia and the global association meetings community. Therefore, collaborative papers of academics and industry practitioners are encouraged.

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The stream welcomes **conceptual, empirical, and methodological research papers**, as well as **critical case studies** and **poster presentations**, that address the theoretical and practical implications of convention tourism and events.

Publication Opportunities

- All accepted full papers will undergo a **rigorous double-blind peer-review process**.
- **Best papers will be formally acknowledged** during the ICCA Congress 2026.
- Selected papers will be **invited for publication** in a **special edition of the *Journal of Convention and Event Tourism*** (see <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wcet20/about-this-journal#aims-and-scope>), subject to the journal's review requirements.

Topics of interest for the Research Stream

The Research Stream Chair welcomes abstracts on the following topics (but not limited to):

- Event fatigue among residents and repeat attendees
- Over-eventisation and diminishing marginal returns of recurring conventions
- Destination carrying capacity, crowding, and quality of life
- Political economy of convention bidding and hosting (co-opetition, power relations, subsidies, public finance, lobbying)
- Deglobalisation and the regionalisation of business events
- Intellectual, professional, and knowledge legacies of conventions
- Informal, pop-up, and unbranded events (anti-conference and unconference formats)
- The dark (human) side of event tourism (labour precarity, volunteer burnout, harassment, safety, power abuse)
- Artificial intelligence in events: algorithmic gatekeeping, platform power, and bias
- Post-growth and degrowth perspectives in event tourism
- Intergenerational dynamics in convention and event attendance
- Academic–industry partnerships in convention and event tourism

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- Education, skills development, and professional pathways in the association meetings sector
- Academic and industry careers: closing skills and expectations gaps

Both **theoretical and applied contributions** are encouraged.

Important Dates and Notification Timelines

- Abstract submission deadline: **1st May 2026**
Abstract length: Maximum 400 words
- Accepted abstracts will be invited to submit full papers (extended abstract of either 1000 or 2000 words) **by 31 July 2026**.
- Full papers and abstracts will undergo a double-blind peer-review process
- Reviewer feedback expected: **31 August 2026**
- Final corrected paper submission: **30 September 2026**

⇒ **Submission email: to education@iccaworld.org**

Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts must not exceed **400 words**.
- Abstracts should clearly outline the purpose, methodology, and contribution of the proposed paper.
- Formats: Full papers, research notes, poster presentations
- Submissions should be sent via email to:
education@iccaworld.org

Registration Fees

- **At least one presenter must register for the ICCA Congress 2026.**
- Registration fees are determined and administered by **ICCA** and are **separate from the abstract submission process**.

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- Registration fee will be 995 EURO excl VAT

Please note that **acceptance of an abstract does not constitute registration** for the Congress.

Presentation at ICCA Congress 2026

Accepted papers will be presented in a **dedicated research stream** during the ICCA Congress 2026 in Panama City. Sessions will be designed to promote **active discussion, knowledge exchange, and dialogue between academia and industry**, contributing to the long-term intellectual legacy of the Congress.

Enquiries

For all enquiries regarding this special research stream and paper submissions, please contact:

Prof Nellie Swart

Email: swartmp@unisa.ac.za