



CALL FOR PAPERS

Joint Conference of the Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies (SASNES/SAVNOS), the Association for the Study of the Septuagint in South Africa (LXXSA), and the Old Testament Society of South Africa (OTSSA/OTWSA)

Knowledge and its Transmission

Hosted by North-West University, Potchefstroom

Dates: 11–14 August 2026

Venue: Sports Village Conference Centre, Potchefstroom Campus, South Africa

Conference Overview

The Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies (SASNES), the Association for the Study of the Septuagint in South Africa (LXXSA), and the Old Testament Society of South Africa (OTSSA) invite scholars, researchers, and postgraduate students to submit proposals for their joint conference to be held from **11–14 August 2026** at the Sports Village Conference Centre, Potchefstroom Campus, South Africa.

The theme of the conference, **“Knowledge and its Transmission,”** explores how knowledge was produced, preserved, negotiated, and transmitted within ancient Near Eastern, biblical, and early Jewish and Christian traditions, as well as how these processes continue to shape scholarship and pedagogy today.

Ancient Languages, Septuagint studies, and Old Testament studies currently face urgent challenges within the South African context, including declining student numbers, shifting institutional priorities, curriculum transformation, and the need to rethink disciplinary identity within contemporary African higher education. This conference seeks to engage these challenges constructively by re-examining both the nature of knowledge in ancient texts and the ongoing processes through which knowledge is transmitted across historical, cultural, linguistic, and institutional boundaries.

Thematic Focus

Participants are invited to explore the concept of **“Knowledge”** and related themes in ancient Near Eastern and biblical texts, including questions of wisdom, tradition, authority, interpretation, textual transmission, translation, and reception. The transmission of knowledge has been a

continuous endeavour across generations, involving scribal practices, pedagogical traditions, translation movements, interpretive communities, and evolving scholarly methodologies.

In addition to traditional research papers, the conference will dedicate **one full day** to reflecting on and reimagining the teaching and study of Ancient Languages, Septuagint studies, and Old Testament studies through:

- pedagogical innovation,
- decolonial praxis,
- digital humanities approaches,
- and future-oriented scholarly collaboration.

Participants are therefore especially encouraged to propose papers, workshops, and project pitches that address the teaching and learning of Ancient Languages, LXX studies, and Old Testament studies in ways that are evidence-based, contextually relevant, and globally connected.

Scholars whose research does not directly engage the conference theme are nonetheless warmly invited to submit proposals for consideration. Possible Foci for the “Transmission” Component

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Living Language and communicative pedagogy for Hebrew, Greek, and Semitic languages
- Decolonising curricula and integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS)
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) in Ancient Languages and biblical studies
- Artificial Intelligence and prompt praxis in teaching and assessment
- Digital humanities, heritage, and community engagement
- Employability pathways, curriculum innovation, and micro-credentials

Submission Guidelines

We welcome proposals in the following formats:

- Individual research papers
- Panels or themed sessions
- Workshops or pedagogical demonstrations
- Project pitches or collaborative initiatives

Registration deadline: 30 April 2026

Submission details, formatting requirements, and registration information will be provided via the official conference website and society communication channels.

For SASNES Members –

Please submit your 250-word abstract by the deadline of 12 May 2026. We look forward to receiving your submissions and engaging in fruitful discussions at the 2026 annual meetings.

Format of proposals:

1. Name, Surname, and Institution
2. Title of Proposed Paper
3. Abstract (no longer than 250 words)

SASNES proposals must go to Dr Daniel Simango (danielsimango@outlook.com)

OTSSA proposals must go to Dr Stefanie Rembold, (stefanie.rembold@up.ac.za)

Extended Call: SASNES Abstracts should be submitted by 12 May 2026. No late submissions will be considered.