



THANK YOU!

The report about the Fourth SAERA conference of October 22 to 26, 2016 is still going to be written by the Local Organising Committee. However I want to take this opportunity on behalf of SAERA to thank Aslam Fataar and his team of able colleagues for a job well done. The participation of the Millennium Group – towards hotel liaising, venues organising, doing the website based registration linked to the SAERA website to collect payments and on-site registration - was just well executed.

I want to especially mention the names of Aslam Fataar who convened the Local Organising Committee (LOC) as well as his team consisting of the following colleagues; Lynne Damons, Doria Daniels, Nazeem Edwards, Omar Esau, Jennifer Feldman, Faaiz Gierdiern, Jerome Joorst, Sally Le Roux, Jasmine Matope, Chantal Newman, Krystle Ontong, Maureen Robinson and Gavin Van Niekerk. **You have done SAERA very proud.** You have put the SAERA conferences at yet another higher plane. We thank you for setting the bar even higher.

I want to thank Stellenbosch University through Prof Eugene Cloete the DVC Research and Innovation as well as the Dean of the Faculty of Education Maureen Robinson who have hosted this conference so ably. The LOC has achieved far above the expectation by also putting the most relevant and very challenging call for papers that inspired more conversations and debates among us all. The gala dinner was excellent with beautiful items on offer. Furthermore, in the context of the complexities engulfing higher education South Africa you managed to place SAERA as a significant role player towards responding to this in a sophisticated and yet informed way. We have moved from adopting simplistic approaches to this complexity towards realising the need for more innovative approaches requiring us all to think from outside the box.

The keynote speakers who were invited to inspire more informed conversations also did not disappoint. They pushed us to the limits of the proverbial knowledge. We thank Marie Brennan and Lew Zippin for the most informative presentations throughout the conference. Achille Mbembe was also just out of this world and managed to trouble our normally taken for granted notions of what constitute knowledge, and thank you Richard Tabulawa for graciously sharing your knowledge with us.

The number and diversity among conference participants also reflect a significant growth for SAERA. They show that we are truly achieving the aims of our founding colleagues – represented in our own Shireen Motala among others - by being as inclusive as possible. Thank you all colleagues; Lesley, Carol, Labby, Volker, Sipiwe, Ursula, Azeem, Dipane, Wayne, Shireen, Gert, Nazir, Lynette and Michael for continuing to position SAERA as the premier education research association in South Africa and beyond.

Signed 
Sechaba Mahlomaholo
President: SAERA November 04, 2016