

CALL FOR PAPERS

12th Annual Conference of RINGS: The International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies

Interrogating Gender-Based Violence: Global Dialogues on Gender Power Relations, Men, and Masculinities

28-30 October 2026

The Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of South Africa (UNISA), invites researchers, practitioners, policymakers, activists, and community leaders to submit abstracts for this international conference. This gathering seeks to address the complex relationship between masculinities, identities, and gender-based violence (GBV). We aim to explore how constructions of masculinities contribute to the prevalence of GBV worldwide and to foster transformative dialogues for positive change.

About RINGS

RINGS, the International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies (ringsgender.org), is a global association of centers for advanced gender studies spanning Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas. Since its establishment in 2014, the following locations have hosted annual meetings:

Prague (2015), Cape Town (2016, 2020), Reykjavik (2017), Lisbon (2018), Tallinn (2019), Budapest (2021), Durban (2022), Paderborn (2023), Delhi (2024), Utrecht (2025).

The conference will also house the 13th RINGS General Assembly business meeting.

Conference Context and Objectives

We are at a time when critical knowledge and intersectional politics are contested by various actors, ranging from social movements to political parties and institutions. Many of the political signifiers that critical scholars deploy, such as 'gender', 'colonialism', or 'safety', have been co-opted into exclusionary and oppressive discourses for ideological purposes.

The conference aims to explore the complex representations, constructions and performances of masculinities in our historical juncture, when "being a man" is linked both to gender-based oppression and to supremacist posturing. Implicit in this concern is the link between masculinity and gender-based violence, which will also be unpacked and complicated at the conference. We believe it is important to stress that "masculinity" is not monolithic but is always inflected by other aspects of subjective positioning, such as geopolitical location, race, ethnicity, class, religion, age, disability, and so on. It is also increasingly acknowledged that men and masculinities are implicated in current global crises, including escalating military conflicts, right-wing swings, and environmental challenges such as climate crisis.

The conference will trace these discursive developments globally, while considering the specificity and complexity of this type of politics across geopolitical contexts. This conference seeks to analyse processes of (re-)appropriation, resignification, and hijacking of critical knowledge to better understand the current historical juncture and to conceive political strategies for resistance and change.

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts: Maximum of 350 words.

Details: Include title, author(s) name(s), affiliation(s), and contact details.

Format: Indicate at the end of the abstract whether you plan to attend in person or virtually.

Submission:

Submit by **29 May 2026** via email to Prof I.D. Mothoagae (mothodi@unisa.ac.za), copying Ms. Mapula Mogashoa (mogasmn@unisa.ac.za).

Use the subject line: **"RINGS abstract"**.

Important Dates:

Notification of Acceptance: 30 June 2026.

Registration Opens: 17 August 2026.

For more information visit our website: [12th Annual Conference of RINGS: The International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies](https://www.unisa.ac.za/rings)