

CALL FOR PAPERS

22nd European Academic Conference on Internal Audit and Corporate Governance:

**Resilient by Design: Reimagining Assurance,
Governance and Risk in a Complex World**

Keynote: Prof Mervyn King



28th to 30th April 2026, Stellenbosch, South Africa

The 2026 **22nd European Academic Conference on Internal Audit and Corporate Governance** emphasises the need for organisations to be pro-active and resilient in the face of global disruptions such as AI adoption, ESG challenges and cyber risks.

In an era defined by disruption, complexity, and rapid innovation, the fields of internal auditing, corporate governance, and risk management are undergoing profound transformation. The 2024 release of the Global Internal Audit Standards, growing regulatory and stakeholder expectations, and the accelerating integration of ESG, digitalisation, and AI are reshaping the way organisations think about assurance and oversight. As a result, practitioners and academics are being called upon to move beyond compliance and contribute meaningfully to organisational resilience and value creation.

This conference invites critical and forward-thinking contributions that explore how assurance, governance, and risk functions can be reimagined to meet the demands of today's interconnected, uncertain world. We welcome theoretical, empirical, and practice-based papers that address innovations in audit methodologies, board governance dynamics, risk culture, ethics, strategic risk intelligence, and the role of technology in reshaping the lines of defence. Join us as we explore how organisations can be *resilient by design*—not merely reacting to change, but anticipating it, and thriving because of it.

The **first day** will be dedicated to a forum to enable **PhD students** to present “works in progress” to experienced academics and practitioners. We encourage students at all stages of their PhD to submit. The main conference will be held on the **second and third day**.

Awards:

- **Best Paper Award** - Main Conference \$1 000 (US) sponsored by the Internal Audit Foundation
- **Best PhD Paper Award** - PhD day €370 / R7 500 sponsored by the IIA SA



Submission of Papers:

We accept both extended abstracts and full papers, with a preference for full papers.

The **extended abstract** should be between 3 and 5 pages, while the **full paper** should be between 10 and 40 pages (including references, tables, and figures).

- **PhD Candidates:** author guide is available on the [conference web page](#)
- **Extended Abstracts and Conference Papers:** author guides are available on the [conference web page](#).
- If you wish to have your paper considered for publication in the *Southern African Journal of Accountability and Auditing Research* ([SAJAAR](#)), **Author Guidelines** is available [HERE](#).
- **Submit all papers in MS Word or PDF to:** eiacg@mandela.ac.za

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- Extended abstracts and full papers submission deadline: Early submissions are preferred with closing date **1st March 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: Within one week of submission with final date **7th March 2026**
- Registration deadline: **7th April 2026**

Should you require a longer lead time to make your travel arrangements kindly ensure that you submit early.

Registration fee:

- **Early registration** (paid on or before 1 April 2026): €225 or R4 500
- **Regular registration** (paid on or before 7 April 2026): €250 or R5 000
- **PhD students:** €100 or R2 000
- **Conference dinner partner:** €50 or R1 000

The conference fee includes participation in the conference, documents, coffee breaks, and a social dinner on 29th April 2026.

[Information on registration, payment and suggestions for hotel bookings available on the conference web page.](#)

Organising Committee:

Prof Giuseppe D'Onza (University of Pisa, Italy)

Dr Alessandro Merendino (Queen Mary University of London, UK)

Leon Yap (Erasmus University, Open University, Netherlands)

Prof Philna Coetzee (Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa)

Prof Lourens Erasmus (University of South Africa, South Africa)

Prof Kato Plant (University of Pretoria, South Africa)

Prof Houdini Fourie (Nelson Mandela University, South Africa)

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You can find us on:



The Conference is hosted at the **Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS)** situated in Marais Road, Stellenbosch, South Africa, see <https://stias.ac.za>.

Click [HERE](#) for directions (Google Maps).

Suggested Accommodation: A list of suggested accommodation/hotels is available on the [conference web page](#).

Important to note:

Accommodation in the Stellenbosch area **might become limited** as our conference falls in a popular holiday season in South Africa.

We thus recommend **not to delay** booking of your accommodation.

Nearest Airport: Cape Town International Airport (CPT), South Africa.

For information on international airlines that operate to Cape Town Internal Airport, click [HERE](#)

Conference Registration:

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER