



OTT

A global consultancy
and platform for change

On Think Tanks Conference 2024 & 2025

Concept note for partners

The On Think Tanks (OTT) Conference brings together thinktankers, funders and policy experts from around the world. It is a space to exchange knowledge and experience, establish and strengthen partnerships and co-develop solutions to common sector challenges. We are seeking partners to support the 2024-2025 conferences:

- Barcelona with Fundació Bofill, 22-23 May 2024.
- Johannesburg with SAIIA , 2025 (dated to be confirmed)

About the conference

On Think Tanks is the leading global source of information, support and community for people working in, with and funding think tanks.

Our conferences are designed to create opportunity for formal and informal interactions, and for participants to create sessions on topics that are relevant and important to them.

All our conferences are delivered in partnership. Long-standing and past conference partners include the Hewlett Foundation, Soapbox, Southern Voice, Universidad del Pacífico, University of Bath, Chatham House, foraus, Open

What participants say

@StojanovicSonja
#OTTConference is a festival for thinktankers where you can share problems, innovative solutions, jokes and experience a truly global #CommunityOfPractice!

@Siderop
A big thank you @onthinktanks for a stimulating and relevant conference #ThinkTanksMatter

Society Foundations, DGAP, Ford Foundation, Robert Bosch Foundation, Mercator Stiftung, and others.

Traditionally the conference is hosted in a different city and/or by a different partner from the world. This includes the University of Bath (2017 and 2018), foraus (2019), and Chatham House (2022). In 2020 and 2021, the conference moved online due to the global pandemic.

Following the global conference, OTT supports a small number of local conferences, hosted by think tanks. Local conferences create space for more nuanced and context specific discussions at the country or regional level. We have had in person local conferences in Johannesburg (2018), Washington DC (2019), Mexico and South Asia (2021), Malaysia (2022), Madrid, Lima, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Guadalajara and Berlin (2023).

Participants

The number of participants may depend on the venue capacity. In previous years we have hosted 80-150 participants from 30+ countries across the world.

In the past, participation has been by invitation only and free of charge. From 2023 onwards we will charge a small fee to support the Conference's sustainability. This will be approximately USD100 (countries in the Global South) and USD200 (countries in the Global North).

Most conference goers are a diverse cross-section of thinktankers – from different research/policy sectors and professions. As in previous conferences we also expect to also be joined by funders, practitioners and academics.

Four guiding principles

Inclusivity: We want all attendees to feel welcome sharing their knowledge and experience.

Trust: To create a space in which people feel confident to share ideas and questions.

Informality: We want people to feel at home, to make new friends, strengthen old relationships, and have fun.

Quality: We want conversations to be intellectually challenged and to contribute to moving the debate forward.

Sharing knowledge

Keynote speeches and the public event will be recorded and shared via the On Think Tanks platform and social media. We invite participants and speakers to share conference reflections via the On Think Tanks platform as well as their own channels. Watch the public event and keynotes from OTT Conference 2013 at Chatham House:



Public event: [The role of think tanks amidst political uncertainty](#)

Keynotes:

- [Patricia Lewis on the uncertain world today](#)
- [Goran Buldioski on evidence and influence in a multipolar world](#)
- [Gala Diaz Langou on forward thinking to navigate political uncertainty](#)
- [Olumide Abimbola on think tanks in a shifting global geopolitical landscape](#)

Request for support

We are looking for partners to help fund and deliver the OTT Conferences of 2024 and 2025.

By supporting the OTT Conference, you will support think tank leaders, funders, researchers, communicators, scholars and others in the field from across the world to exchange, learn and grow as a sector. We hope that this will be an opportunity for you to establish and strengthen relationships across the sector.

In particular we are looking for support to cover the cost of participants from the Global South. This will ensure that the OTT Conference remains a truly global event.

Support can also involve organising sessions and relevant fringe events in the host city, sponsoring social activities and making in-kind contributions to the delivery of the Conference.

Research funders supporting the OTT Conference will also be invited to join the OTT Funders Circle, which brings together think tank funders from across the world. We host a meeting of the members at the Conference.

Contact

Enrique Mendizabal, OTT Founder and Director
enrique@onthinktanks.org

Estefanía Terán, Director, On Think Tanks eteran@onthinktanks.org





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