Unisa's 10 Catalytic Niche Areas

6. Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation



INVITATION: Working Group

1. Marine Studies, 2. Aviation and Aeronautical Studies, 3. Automotive, 4. Energy, 5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array, **6. Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation**, 7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies), 8. Health Studies/Medicine, 9. Feminist, Womanist, Bosadi Theorisations, 10. Student Support and Co-Curricular Activities.

Working Group Session

You are cordially invited to the 4th 2026 series of CGS-facilitated Catalytic Niche Area Working Group meetings for 4IR and Digitalisation. The theme for series 4 is "Future-Focused, Adaptive and Sustainable Catalytic Niche Areas". In this series, we explore emerging trends, risks and opportunities, and we consider the sustainability and adaptability of our niche area engagements.

Beyond Technological Inevitability: Shaping Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Futures
How can UNISA's 4IR and Digitalisation Catalytic Niche Area anticipate and respond to rapidly evolving technologies while ensuring that its research priorities advance African technological agency, inclusive development and sustainable futures rather than merely responding to externally determined technological agendas?

Strategic reflection: What emerging research questions, disciplinary intersections and forms of collaboration should the 4IR and Digitalisation Catalytic Niche Area prioritise over the next five to ten years, and which of its current assumptions or approaches might need to be reconsidered?

Reading:
UNCTAD (2025). Technology and Innovation Report 2025: Inclusive Artificial Intelligence for Development. https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tir2025_en.pdf

Friday, 20 November 2026
11:00 – 12:00

Join the Session on MS Teams
https://tinyurl.com/mr92amkxOR
Teams Link

ENQUIRIES:
CGScatalyticnicheareas@unisa.ac.za

FACILITATOR:
Prof Jessica Murray

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