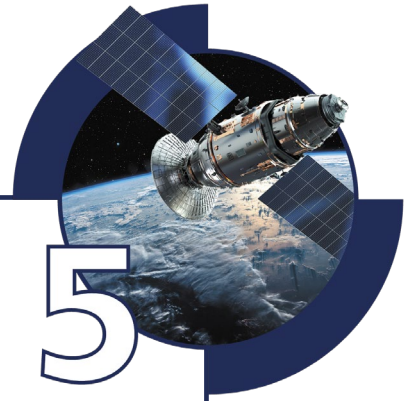
Unisa's 10 Catalytic Niche Areas

5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array



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 Space Study and Square Kilometre Array. 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 the Stars: African Scientific Futures, Knowledge Sovereignty and the Politics of Discovery
As Africa's involvement in astronomy and space science expands, how can UNISA's Space Studies and Square Kilometre Array Catalytic Niche Area contribute to scientific discovery and technological innovation while critically engaging with questions of knowledge sovereignty, equitable participation and the broader societal responsibilities of space research?

Strategic reflection:
Looking towards 2035, which emerging research opportunities and disciplinary intersections should UNISA's Space Studies and Square Kilometre Array Catalytic Niche Area prioritise, and what new partnerships or institutional capacities will be needed to strengthen its contribution to African scientific leadership?

Readings:
Binneman, A. J. (2026). San ethnoastronomy and cultural memory: Reclaiming indigenous cosmologies in the Square Kilometre Array construction area. Journal of Science Communication, 25(6)
https://jcom.sissa.it/article/pubid/JCOM_2506_2026_N01/

"Diversifying knowledge before colonisation: New Space, Africa, and future making practices." (2025). Sustainable Futures, 10, Article 101443.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666188825010044

GUEST PRESENTER:
Dr Robin Thomas
Title: Precursor to Pathfinder: MeerKAT's Legacy and the SKA's Promise for Extragalactic Science

Monday, 30 November 2026
11:00 – 12:00

Join the Session on MS Teams
https://tinyurl.com/atk9wap3 OR
Teams Link

ENQUIRIES:
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FACILITATOR:
Prof Jessica Murray

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