

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

2026

Harnessing Inclusive and Transformative Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development

CSIR International Convention Centre

24 – 26 February 2026

DTC
Digital
Technology
Conference





CALL FOR PAPERS

UNISA COLLEGE OF LAW

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2026

“Harnessing Inclusive and Transformative Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development”

Introduction

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), digital technologies can be extremely effective catalysts that can put people in touch with possibilities, markets, and promote economic growth. With the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and artificial intelligence, technology has permeated every aspect of modern life and influences all sectors of society from telemedicine, banking, e-commerce and e-governance. Crucially, digital platforms make it easier to collaborate globally, allowing for multifaceted ways of sharing knowledge and the expansion of creative solutions from anywhere in the world.

Digital technology's revolutionary potential is not, however, always inclusive or advantageous. The benefits are not shared fairly, and the dangers go beyond the widely recognised “digital divide.” Equality of development is hampered by the very nature of the global digital economy, identification, and security. Access to technology within nations is essential, but inclusion must also include equitable sharing of the financial gains from the digital revolution among all countries. Every nation must be able to influence the digital future, and the architecture of the world must encourage rather than obstruct their involvement. Attention needs to be paid to several important issues.

Inequalities are created and perpetuated within and across nations due to

differences in digital access, affordability, literacy, security, and the availability of accessible, locally relevant digital resources and services. Inherent in AI systems trained on skewed data is algorithmic bias which has the potential to mirror, both sustain and amplify existing social prejudices. Vulnerabilities in data privacy and security further disproportionately affect states/nations with weaker regulatory regimes and vulnerable groups.

In industries that are particularly vital to national economies, the rapid adoption of automation and AI is frequently associated with risks of job displacement, necessitating extensive reskilling and social protection measures. In addition, the use of AI by multinational firms to reduce or optimise tax obligations risks weakening countries' economic capacity to fund development projects and public services. Finally, political stability and the advancement of development are seriously threatened by the dissemination of false information via digital platforms and the possibility of the technology being employed in conflicts.

As a result, merely implementing technology is not enough. Its adoption if not properly thought through can lead to new vulnerabilities and exacerbate already-existing inequities. It is crucial to have a global viewpoint and value a range of experiences. In a world characterised by institutional fluidity, technical developments, and reshaped economic ties, scholars and practitioners in digital technology and related fields are encouraged to reflect on the appropriateness of the conceptual, social, and existing regulatory frameworks.

DTC 2026- PRETORIA

On **24-26 February 2026**, the UNISA, College of law (CLAW), will host the Digital Technology Conference (DTC) in Pretoria.

The main objective of the DTC

The main objective of this conference is to provide a platform for experts, professionals, students, academics, technology professionals, entrepreneurs, policymakers and other stakeholders to engage with the trajectories of digital technology, exchange knowledge, reflect on lessons, opportunities, challenges and kindle each other to contribute to the digital technology body of knowledge and recent developments.

Objectives of the DTC

- Encourage inter-disciplinary approaches to foster collaboration on Digital Technologies
- Showcase cutting-edge research in digital technologies
- Serve as a basis of knowledge and data
- Sharing ongoing and published work on digital technologies.

Expected Impact

It is anticipated that the conference will address the current discussion surrounding the role of innovative technologies in different spheres including but not limited to economy, finance, media, safety, law, health, and communication. Because of technological progress, it is anticipated that the conclusions, analyses, and discussions will strengthen and increase the body of knowledge in the different fields of expertise. It is also anticipated that the connections made by scholars, practitioners, and other stakeholders at the conference will harvest collaborative research engagements in future. The conference is also taking place at a pivotal moment in South Africa and on the African continent. South Africa is currently pursuing a policy of digital transformation that seeks to encourage the development of diverse and inclusive digital economy and AI ecosystems, boost intra-African digital trade and economic growth and development. It is anticipated that the engagements and research outputs from this conference will also contribute towards supporting these national priority objectives.

Conference Themes

The conference themes are (but not restricted to):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI, Data and Human Rights • AI and Healthcare • AI Literacy • AI Network in Africa • AI, virtual or digital assets, and Tax • AI Systems and Development • Algorithms of oppression • Big data Management • Corporate Governance and cybersecurity • Corporate espionage and the weaponisation of data • Cybersecurity, Cyber Risk and Risk management • Cybersecurity planning • Cybercrime • Cyber Forensic • Cyber Hygiene • Cyber Liability Insurance • Cyber law and Cyberspace regulation • Cyber Resilience • Data Protection and personal data security • Data Localisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Glocalization • Data Integration • Digital Assets and Insolvency • Digital Banking • Digital Economy and transformation • Digital Identity • Digital literacy and skills • Digital Sovereignty, National Security, and International Law • Ethics of Neurotechnology • Ethics, ethical use of technologies and legal practice • Financial Literacy • Financial Socialisation • Fintech and Financial Inclusion • Intellectual Property and Cyber Law • Intersection of corporate law, metaverse and emerging technologies • Labour law, job displacement, virtual workplaces and dispute resolution • Sustainable AI, Green economy and Innovation • Robotics • Techno-colonisation • Unmasking AI- AI bias, and Technology race |
|--|--|

Targeted Participants

- Academics, researchers, and postgraduate students
- Policy makers and government officials
- Technology professionals

Venue

CSIR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, PRETORIA



© CSIR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (<https://za.pinterest.com/CSIRICC/>)

Conference Registration Fee

All delegates must register in advance. There will be no registration on-site.

Classification	Conference registration fee
Delegate (presenting a paper)	R 7000,00
Delegate not presenting	R 7500,00
Postgraduate student	R 4500,00

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstracts

- Abstracts should reflect the research problem and purpose.

Format for Abstract

- Abstracts should be in Ms Word between **250 – 300 words**, **Times New Roman font 12**, **1.5 line spacing**, and provide **5 keywords**.
- Abstracts should reflect the research problem and purpose.

Research Abstracts

The abstract should contain:

- Title,
- Author, Co-authors and contacts mobile number, Email (include institutions Affiliation),
- Sub-theme (Thematic area),
- Introduction,
- Purpose/Objectives,
- Methodology,
- Results,
- Conclusion and
- Keywords.

Abstracts for Technologies/Innovations

The abstracts should contain the following:

- Name of the technology/innovation
- Name/s of the inventors/innovators
- Sub-theme (Thematic area)
- Brief description of the technology (include latest pictures/video link)
- Current impact of the technology/innovation (include statistics of communities benefiting from technology/innovation)
- Description of the market size and scale-up requirements

Acceptance Notification

Authors will be notified of the acceptance decision from **09 NOVEMBER 2025**.

Abstract Review Process

- Please ensure that your abstract describes how your contribution will respond to the objectives and framing of this call.
- Only one abstract per individual presenter may be submitted (unless the second is co-presented).
- The review of abstracts will follow the policy of blind peer review.
- Abstracts must be submitted by **07 NOVEMBER 2025**.
- Abstracts in MS Word must be submitted as a separate file attachment by email to:

Method of Submission

Abstracts are to be written in English and should be submitted electronically to claw_dtc@unisa.ac.za.

Also, include a recent passport/headshot photo and short 200-word biography/biographies of the author(s).

NB: All submissions should reach DTC no later than the deadline as indicated above.

Guidelines for submission of full papers

Once the abstract is accepted, the author must then send a full paper. Please note that while submission of a full paper before the conference is highly recommended, it is NOT a pre-requisite for participation in the conference.


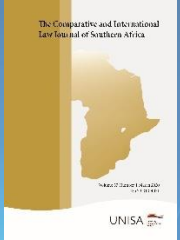
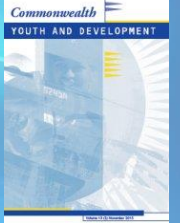

- **Full papers deadline: 05 DECEMBER 2025**
- **Conference Proceedings:** Full papers accepted for the Digital Technology Conference will be included in the Conference Proceedings (with an ISSN number) to be published after the conference.
- **Article Publications:** The Conference has partnered with journals accredited by South Africa's Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

Please note that the final decision for publication of papers will be made based on peer review reports of the respective Journals. Additional publication charges may be incurred depending on the Journal selected.

Key Dates:

- Abstract submission deadline: **07 NOVEMBER 2025**
- Notification of abstract acceptance: **09 NOVEMBER 2025**
- Delegates registration commences: **09 NOVEMBER 2025** until **09 JANUARY 2026**
- Conference fee deadline: **09 JANUARY 2026**
- Full papers submission: **05 DECEMBER 2025**
- Conference Dates: **24-26 FEBRUARY 2026**

PARTNER JOURNALS AND SPECIAL ISSUES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>South African Mercantile Law Journal</i> <p>About the SA Merc Law Journal, visit the following URL link: https://journals.co.za/journal/jlc.samlj Style Guide: https://journals.co.za/pb-assets/auth_guidelines/jlc_samlj_auth-1624287111880.pdf General guidelines on submission: https://journals.co.za/journal/jlc.samlj/submit</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Comparative and International Law Journal of Southern Africa</i> <p>About the CILSA, visit the following URL link: https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/CILSA/about Article submissions and author guidelines: https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/CILSA/about/submissions</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Commonwealth Youth and Development</i> <p>About the CYD, visit the following URL link: https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/CYD/about Article submissions and author guidelines: https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/CYD/about/submissions</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Journal of Risk and Financial Management</i> <p>Special issue: <i>Alternative Finance and Financial Innovation: Risks, Opportunities, and Regulation</i></p> <p>About the JRFM, visit the following URL link: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/jrfm/about Article submissions for Special Issue and author guidelines: https://www.mdpi.com/si/245906</p>

Technical Information

Conference Venue:	CSIR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE
Transport:	Delegates are responsible for their own travel
Accommodation:	Delegates are responsible for arranging their own accommodation. The organising committee will share details of nearby hotels.
Visa:	Delegates are responsible for procuring visas.

All registered delegates will be furnished with further logistical information.

Sponsorship

If you wish to sponsor or to volunteer in the DTC 2026 conference, please contact the conference convener secretary at esitholr@unisa.ac.za and copy claw_dtc@unisa.ac.za

Conference Committee

Adv MA Mthembu	Conference Chair
Dr D Rammila	Abstract and Programme Chair
Prof PLR Makoni	Finance Chair
Adv N Ntsaluba	Logistics Chair
Mr MP Lemekwane	ICT & Website Chair
Dr J Mtsweni	Sponsorship Chair
Mr N Mokgotho	Marketing Chair

Conference Organising Team

Prof R Ahmed	CLAW, University of South Africa
Prof S Mahomed	CLAW, University of South Africa
Prof LR Ngwenyama	CLAW, University of South Africa
Dr K Twabu	ICT, University of South Africa
Mr P Mohajane	ICT, University of South Africa
Mr D Mahumane	CLAW, University of South Africa
Mr BM Masuku	CLAW, University of South Africa
Mr M Sindane	ICT, University of South Africa
Ms E Mbiriri	CLAW, University of South Africa

Conference Scientific Committee

Dr B Vambe	Scientific Committee Chair (Unisa)
Prof CB Ncube	Scientific Committee Chair (UCT)
Prof G Nhamo	Scientific Committee Member (Unisa)
Prof KB Khan	Scientific Committee Member (Unisa)
Dr LP Mamaro	Scientific Committee Member (Unisa)
Dr N Daskalakis	Scientific Committee Member (PUSPS, Greece)
Prof S Tladi	Scientific Committee Member (UJ)
Prof S Snail ka Mtuze	Scientific Committee Member (NMU)
Ms N Mthembu	Scientific Committee Member (UKZN)
Dr K Twabu	Scientific Committee Member (Unisa)
Prof LR Ngwenyama	Scientific Committee Member (Unisa)

Enquiries:

All conference enquiries must be sent to:

Ms Lerato Sithole
Department of Mercantile Law
Cas van Vuuren Building, 6th Floor Room 91
UNISA, Muckleneuk Campus
Tel: +27 11 670 9732
E-mail: esitholr@unisa.ac.za & sibiyvc@unisa.ac.za

Copy:

claw_dtc@unisa.ac.za



GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

PROF (DR) UCHENNA JEROME ORJI



Uchenna Jerome Orji is an Attorney admitted to the Nigerian Bar. He holds an LL.M from the University of Ibadan, with specialization in cybersecurity law and a PhD in Law from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria, with specialization in telecommunications law. He is the author of *Cybersecurity Law and Regulation* (Wolf Legal Publishers: The Netherlands, 2012),

International Telecommunications Law and Policy (Cambridge Scholars Publishing: United Kingdom, 2018), and *Telecommunications Law and Regulation in Nigeria* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing: United Kingdom, 2018), in addition to peer reviewed papers on several aspects of law. Uchenna is a Fellow of the African Center for Cyber Law and Cybercrime Prevention (ACCP) at the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime in Kampala, Uganda and a Fellow of European School on Internet Governance and has worked as an expert for the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth, the Dutch Government, the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Center of Excellence and the Government of Nigeria's Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption. Uchenna is a Principal Investigator at the African Institute for Cybersecurity and Tele-Informatics Governance and a Law Professor at the American University of Nigeria, Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria.

DISTINGUISHED PROF JAMES CHIBUEZE



James Okwe Chibueze is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) at the University of South Africa. A renowned astrophysicist, he has published over 100 papers. He completed his BSc Hons (First

Class) in Physics and MSc in Astrophysics at the University of Nigeria and obtained his PhD at Kagoshima University, in Kagoshima, Japan. His science interests include masers in Galactic star-forming region, astrometry, radio galaxies, Galaxy Clusters, FRBs, and high-fidelity imaging with sensitive radio interferometers (ALMA, VLA, MeerKAT) and VLBI. He currently chairs the Science Committee of the African Astronomical Society (AfAS) and is a member of the Users Committee of the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) and an enhanced Multi Element Remotely Linked Interferometer Network (e-MERLIN) Steering Committee member. He supervises and co-supervises dozens of MSc and PhD students in South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana, Kenya, Taiwan, Japan, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. Besides astronomy, Prof Chibueze loves to play soccer with his wife and kids.

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

PROF CAROLINE B. NCUBE



Caroline B Ncube is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town (UCT) where she holds the DSTI-NRF SARCHI Chair in Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development. She holds a NRF B2 rating and is a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). In 2024, she received the South African Women in Science Awards (SAWISA) Distinguished Woman Researcher (Humanities and Social Sciences) award and in 2023 received a UCT Excellence Award for Professors. She lectured on the WIPO-ARIPO-Africa University Masters Degree in IP (2012 – 2022) and is an Associate Member of the Centre for Law, Technology and Society, University of Ottawa. She has supervised 7 post-doctoral research fellows, 14 PhDs and 32 masters' students. She is a member of the African Continental Free Trade Area Trade and Industrial Development Advisory Council, African Union Scientific Technical Research Commission Taskforce on IP Protection in Joint Research and Collaboration During Outbreaks and of the African Policy, Research & Advisory Group on Science, Technology and Innovation. She is a co-leader of the Open African Innovation Research (OpenAIR) partnership and participates in several other research projects. She has published extensively on various aspects of Intellectual Property and Cyberlaw and is a co-editor of *Artificial Intelligence and the Law in Africa* (2023, LexisNexis).

LT. GEN. WISEMAN S. MBAMBO, PSC (J), ENSP



Lieutenant General Wiseman Simo Mbambo is the Chief of the South African Air Force (SAAF) in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). Lieutenant General Mbambo is married to Mrs. Thokozani Mbambo, and they have four sons, a daughter-in-law and a grandson. Lt. Gen Mbambo has a background rooted in the National Liberation Movement, dating back to 1982.

He has undergone extensive military training in various countries including Angola, Yugoslavia, Russia, and the USA. As a seasoned mission controller, he has held diverse operational and strategic positions within the SAAF and the SANDF. Lt. Gen Mbambo has several academic qualifications, including a Bachelor of Military Science, a master's degree in strategic security studies from the Air University in Alabama, USA, and a Diploma in Aviation Safety Management Systems from the University of Southern California. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in business leadership (MBL) from the University of South Africa. Notably, Lt. Gen Mbambo has participated in various local and international military conferences, presenting his insights on diverse military topics, and has published articles in South African National Defence Force publications. Lt. Gen Mbambo has received several decorations including External Operations, 30 Years of Good Service Medal and the Mandela Medal.

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

MR YUSUPH KILEO



Yusuph Kileo is a Tanzanian cybersecurity and digital forensics expert known for his significant contributions to the field across Africa. He holds a BSc in Computer Security from Staffordshire University and a Master's degree in Information Technology from Eastern Mediterranean University, with focuses on project management and risk management. His career began with roles at Brand East Africa in 2006 and Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited (TTCL) in 2008, where he developed an interest in security. He later worked at Deloitte Tanzania and joined the Tanzanian Police Force's Cybercrime Unit in 2012, enhancing its digital forensics capabilities and conducting training on cyber challenges. Kileo is a prominent figure in the African ICT community and served on the board of the Africa ICT Alliance (AfICTA) and is a current representative at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Business Constituency, within the Finance Committee and DNS Abuse Working Group. He has been recognized as one of the 2021 Africa ICT Champions, for his work in promoting online safety. Kileo frequently speaks at conferences, chairs panels on information security and cybercrime, and provides insights through various media platforms (YouTube and Medium). His efforts also extend to public awareness, such as his involvement in Tanzania's 2024 Child Online Protection Campaign.

PROF MZUKISI NJOTINI



Mzukisi Njotini is the Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Fort Hare. He holds an LLB (Vista University), LLM (cum laude) in Information Technology Law (UNISA), MBA (UJ) and LLD (UNISA). He is a seasoned academic who worked as the Vice-Dean: Teaching and Learning, and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), as Vice-Dean. He also worked as Professor and Director of the School of Law at the University of Limpopo (UL), and Senior Lecturer in the College of Law at the University of South Africa. As Director, he led and oversaw, inter alia, the re-accreditation of the LLB programme by the Council on Higher Education (CHE). Prof Njotini developed several courses and programmes, the most notable being the Research Methodology in Law and Criminal Justice (UNISA) and the Short Learning Programme in Law and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) (UJ). Prof Njotini's areas of specialisation include Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Law, 4IR and the Law, Cybersecurity and the Law, Legal Philosophy, and Law and Ethics. He has contributed extensively to academic knowledge in his chosen area. Prof Njotini did his post-doctoral research with the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, Oxford University in the UK.

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

PROF GODWELL NHAMO



Godwell Nhamo (PhD, Rhodes University) is a **Full Professor and a NRF C1-Rated researcher** at the **University of South Africa (UNISA)**. His research space includes Climate Change, Coastal Resilience and Livelihoods, and Sustainable Development (Goals). Prof Nhamo has a passion for capacity

development and mentoring (young) people for success, both in the academic and business spheres. He has published 19 books (15 edited and 4 co-authored), over 120 journal articles and many book chapters. Since 2013, Prof Nhamo has graduated 14 PhDs and hosted 13 postdoctoral fellows. Prof Nhamo is also one of the experts for the Non-economic Losses Group under the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanisms on Loss and Damage. He also sits in the Gauteng Premier Climate Change Experts Group. He has over 27 years of experience in the academic and consulting spaces of engagements and is an advocate of open access educational resources. Prof Nhamo is a recipient of many accolades, among them, the 2017 Distinguished Old Rhodian Award for having reached exceptional heights in his chosen career by maintaining excellence in the field and service to society, 2021 NRF Science Award, and the UNISA Vice Chancellor Research Excellence Award (three times).

PROF PUMELA MSWELI



Pumela Msweli is the **CEO and Executive Dean of the Graduate School of Business Leadership** at the **University of South Africa**. She holds a PhD and an MBA (with distinction) from the University of Exeter, and an MPhil in Development Finance from Stellenbosch University. A Professor

of Global Business, Prof Msweli brings extensive teaching experience from her previous roles at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Her international academic engagement includes visiting scholar positions at St Mary's University (Canada), University of Mauritius, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany), and Romanian American University. Prof Msweli has successfully supervised 23 doctoral students, and has guided over 40 master's students through their academic journeys. Her research portfolio includes collaborative projects conducted across South Africa, Uganda, Mauritius, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Egypt, Ethiopia, Botswana, Canada, UK, Germany, France, Finland, and Sweden. Professor Msweli is a Certified Integral Coach and ICF-Accredited Enneagram Practitioner, bringing valuable leadership development expertise to her professional practice. Her extensive experience in leadership positions continues to inform her work in developing the next generation of business leaders.

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

PROF SEBO TLADI



Sebo Tladi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mercantile Law, Faculty of Law at the University of Johannesburg. She holds various degrees in law including a BJuris (Vista University), LLB and LLM (UP) and a LLD awarded by the University of South Africa. Prof Tladi is a specialist in the field of Cyberlaw. Her recent

publications include an article titled 'Electronic commerce protocol of the AfCFTA: Opportunities and challenges in realising regional integration in the continent' in the African Journal of Rhetoric and a co-edited book entitled *Women and Cyber Rights in Africa* (2024, Juta). She has also co-authored several book chapters including 'A legal perspective on exposing women's nudes 'revenge porn' to score political points' in *Social Media and Gender in Africa: Discourses on Power and Politics of Everyday Life* (2024, Lexington Books) and 'Consumer Protection and e-Commerce' in the latest edition of the *Cyberlaw @ SA: The Law of the Internet in South Africa* textbook.

MR PHILA SIBANDZE



Phila Sibandze is a Lecturer at the University of Fort Hare. He holds a BSc (Hons) in Applied GIS and Remote Sensing from the University of Fort Hare and an MSc degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, focusing on the spectral differentiation of cannabis when intercropped with maize. Mr Sibandze began his career as a GIS

& Remote Sensing technician at Umvoto Africa. He then joined the Agricultural Research Council Institute of Soil Climate and Water (ARC-ISCW) as a researcher specializing in crop monitoring and cannabis detection using satellite technology. While at ARC-ISCW, he was awarded the CV Raman Scholarship for African Researchers from the Indian Space Agency (ISRO). Mr Sibandze also worked as a remote sensing scientist at the South African National Space Agency (SANSA), focusing on disaster management (flood mapping and monitoring). He served as the Chair of the Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Democracy hosted by the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) where he coordinated various Synthetic Aperture RADAR (SAR) training programs across Africa. Mr Sibandze developed the first-ever Remote Sensing Atlas of South Africa, which showcased the application of remote sensing in different disciplines in South Africa (<http://atlas.sansa.org.za/index.html>).

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

DR MOSES B. KHANYILE



Moses B. Khanyile is currently serving as the **Director of the Centre for Military Studies (CEMIS)** and the **Director of the Defence Artificial Intelligence Research Unit (DAIRU)** at the **Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University**, South Africa. His experience, which spans over many years, includes policy

development, strategic management and financial technology solutions in both public and private sectors. He has previously received ministerial assignments which include being a member of the Defence Review Committee that drafted the 2015 Defence Review; a Non-Executive Director in the Armscor Board, and the National Coordinator of the National Defence Industry Council (NDIC). He has also previously served as Director Planning & Programming in the South African Department of Defence. Dr Khanyile has served as an executive in the Absa/Barclays Bank, as managing director of Masharps College and the first chairperson of the Defence Industry Fund Advisory Board. In the academic space, he provides academic services for masters and doctoral students at Stellenbosch University, University of South Africa (UNISA), Wits, and Da Vinci Business School. He holds a PhD in International Politics, a Master of Arts, LLM, and a Master of Business Leadership (MBL). He has received management and leadership training from institutions in England, Germany, and the USA.

MS NOMFUNDO MTHEMBU



Nomfundo Mthembu is a **Lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal** specializing in Medical Law, Human Rights, and Healthcare Policy. Her work explores the evolving interface between law, ethics, and digital health technologies, with a focus on reproductive rights, indigenous knowledge systems, and the legal

protection of vulnerable and minority groups. In addition to her academic role, Ms Mthembu plays a key leadership role in community-based legal and healthcare advocacy. She serves as a board member of the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund and the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust, where she provides strategic legal guidance to initiatives aimed at expanding access to education, healthcare, and justice for underserved communities. She has led nationally funded research, including a project on health competition law for the Competition Commission of South Africa, and has presented her research at national and international platforms. She also serves as Legal Representative in the UKZN Proctor's Office and as Ethical Clearance Officer for the School of Law, while actively contributing to academic quality assurance as a reviewer and examiner across South African institutions. As former visiting lecturer at the University of Messina (Italy), she continues to foster international collaboration in health law and policy.

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

PROF PATRICIA MAKONI



Patricia Lindelwa Makoni (PhD, University of the Witwatersrand) is a **Full Professor** in the **Department of Finance, Risk Management and Banking at the University of South Africa (UNISA)**, and an **Adjunct Professor at the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Graduate School of Business**. With deep

expertise in International and Development Finance, she has built a career dedicated to advancing scholarship, research, teaching and learning, thought leadership and consultancy in areas that shape global and regional financial systems. Professor Makoni has contributed to the understanding of how finance intersects with sustainable development, economic transformation and the challenges facing emerging markets. Her work emphasises the importance of inclusive financial systems in driving long-term resilience, from both supply and demand perspectives. She currently hosts three postdoctoral research fellows in her research focus area of International and Development Finance, spanning the energy, health and 4IR and digitalisation institutional catalytic niche areas. Prof Makoni is also a PhD coach. Prof Makoni is an active Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Development Finance (CIDEF), a Full Member of the Organisation of Women in Trade (OWIT) Zimbabwe Chapter, and a full member of the Institute of Directors Zimbabwe (IoDZ).

PROF SIZWE SNAIL ka MTUZE



Sizwe Lindelo Snail ka Mtuze holds an LLB from the University of Pretoria. He is a practising attorney with the law firm **Snail Attorneys at Law**. He holds an LLM from the University of South Africa and is currently an LLD Candidate at the University of Fort Hare. Prof Snail ka Mtuze is an **Adjunct Professor** at

the **Nelson Mandela University, Mercantile Law Department** where he supervises postgraduate MPhil and LLM students. He was previously a **Research Fellow** as well as a **Lecturer** of Cyberlaw at the **University of Fort Hare**. He has served as an Advisory Member of the Cyber BRICS, FGV Rio de Janeiro, Brazil since 2019 and is also a **Visiting Professor** at **CTS-FGV Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. Prof Snail ka Mtuze was a member of the South African Information Regulator and the ICT Review Panel of the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS), serving as the chair of the E-Commerce Committee (i.e., Digital Society). He also served on the National Cyber Security Advisory Council of the DTPS and was the Deputy Chair and Chair for the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) E-Law Committee. He has been a domain name mediator for the South African Domain Name Authority (ZADNA) since 2017 and has previously served as a member of the Films and Publication Appeal Board (FPB). Sizwe is the co-editor and author of the *Cyberlaw @ SA III, IV* textbook and is currently updating *Cyberlaw @ SA V* which will be published later in 2025.

GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

PROF KATHERINE MALAN



Katherine Malan is a **Full Professor** in the **Department of Decision Sciences** at the **University of South Africa**. Her research interests include automated algorithm/model selection in optimisation and machine learning, fitness landscape analysis, particularly the analysis of optimisation problems in relation to population-based (mostly nature-

inspired) algorithm performance, and the application of computational intelligence techniques to real-world optimisation and data mining problems. She has over 50 publications. In 2025 she was awarded an NRF B3-rating, confirming her considerable international recognition for the high quality and impact of her research. Since 2023 Prof Malan has been listed in the top 2% of scientists worldwide by the Stanford University/Elsevier rankings in the field of Artificial Intelligence & Image Processing. She has 30 years' lecturing experience, mostly in Computer Science, at three different South African universities and has co-authored two programming textbooks. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the South African Computer Journal, an Associate Editor for the Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence, and serves as a reviewer for over 20 Web of Science journals and many local and international conferences. She currently holds the position of Chair of the Evolutionary Computation Technical Committee of the IEEE society and is a council member for the South African Institute of Computer Scientists and Information Technologists.

DISTINGUISHED PROF MONDE NTWASA



Monde Ntwasa graduated with a BSc in Microbiology and BSc (Clinical Science and Immunology) at the **University of Cape Town (1986)**. He holds an **MPhil and Ph.D. in Biochemistry** from the **Cambridge University (1996)**. Prof Ntwasa was a Research Fellow at UCT and later accepted a position as a Lecturer in Biochemistry at the

University of the Witwatersrand, where he rose to the rank of Associate Professor in Biochemistry. He joined the **University of South Africa** as a **Full Professor in Biochemistry** in 2016. Prof Ntwasa has a long history of studying developmental biology and oncology. His current research interests are in Drug Discovery and Development, focusing on small-molecule anticancer drugs. His laboratory is currently working on a pipeline of anticancer drug leads. Two drug candidates have been patented internationally, and one of them is currently undergoing preclinical studies. Prof. Ntwasa has played several leadership roles in the academic arena. Until 2020, he was also a member of the Advisory Committee on Genetically Modified Organisms of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). Since 2022, Prof Ntwasa has promoted innovation and youth empowerment as the **Acting Executive Dean** of the UNISA **College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES)** until 2025. Currently, Prof Ntwasa conducts Biomedical Research as a **Distinguished Professor at CAES.**

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