

9th RESEARCH & INNOVATION WEEK

2 - 6 March 2020

PROGRAMME

| Re-imagining R&I at Unisa for a sustainable African future |

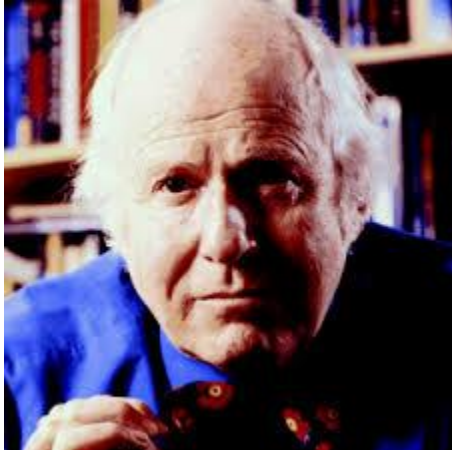
FRIDAY, 6 MARCH 2020

Theme: “Research methodologies in support of postgraduate studies in the wake of Sustainable Development Goals”

Venue: Senate Hall, Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria

08:00 – 08:30	Tea & Registration	
		Programme Director Prof Patrick Ngulube Acting Director: School of Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Studies (SIRGS)
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome Address	Prof Lindiwe Zungu Executive Dean: College of Graduate Studies
09:00 – 09:45	Speaker Title: <i>“Research methodologies in support of postgraduate studies in the wake of Sustainable Development Goals”</i>	Prof Dan Remeyi Extraordinary Professor UWC and Director ACPIIL
09:45 – 10:00	Q&A	
10:00 – 10:45	Speaker Title: <i>“The Political Economy of Research and Innovation in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”</i>	Prof Jephias Matunhu Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
10:45 – 11:00	Q&A	
11:00 – 11:45	Speaker Title: <i>“Using qualitative methods in an ethical manner to investigate Sustainable Development Goals”</i>	Dr Colence Chisita Researcher, Unisa
11:45 – 12:00	Q&A	
12:00 – 12:45	Panel Discussion	Panellists: Prof Mishack Gumbo College of Education, Unisa Prof Morgan Ndlovu College of Human Sciences, Unisa Prof Matshidiso Taole College of Education, Unisa Prof Ernest Mnkandla College Science Engineering and Technology, Unisa Dr Sebo Tladi College of Law, Unisa Prof Simeon Maile Department of Educational Studies, Tshwane University of Technology
12:45 – 13:00	Vote of thanks	Dr Memme Makua Acting Head: Quality Assurance and Enhancement CGS
13:00	Lunch	

Title: “Research methodologies in support of postgraduate studies in the wake of Sustainable Development Goals”



Speaker: Prof Dan Remeyi

Extraordinary Professor UWC and Director ACPIL

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Abstract

More than ever before academic research needs to be focused on delivering a contribution to theoretical knowledge while at the same time offering effective advice concerning its application. This means that today academic research needs to be able to deliver tangible benefits to society. The challenges facing society and highlighted by the discussions around Sustainable Development Goals require urgent attention. It now beholds everyone and especially academics to make a greater contribution to understanding how these goals can be achieved. UNISA, one of the world’s largest universities, has a distinct role to play. Especially through its postgraduate studies activities UNISA can deliver important results.

Having an appropriate research methodology plays an important role in achieving these results and alternatives will be explored leading to a suggested optimal approach which will facilitate academic success both at degree level and also when it comes to publishing papers.



Title: “The Political Economy of Research and Innovation in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”



Speaker: Prof Jephias Matunhu
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Abstract

Research and innovation can contribute immensely to attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9. Ironically, investment in scientific research and innovation falls below the global average in weaker economies. Developed economies dominate the scientific research and innovation ecosystem, with Europe leading in the innovation index. Systemic interactions on scientific research and innovation are either non-existent or frail in weaker institutions/economies (Chesbrough 2011). The disproportionate attention to scientific research and innovation is responsible for the current hegemonic knowledge economy, which works better for the more developed economies. In South Africa the overall GDP expenditure on scientific research and innovation is usually highest in better developed Gauteng province and lowest in Limpopo, which is one of the poorest provinces in the country. The paper recommends increased investment in scientific research and innovation networks and in appropriate public-industry-academia partnerships in the weaker institutions/economies.

Key Terms: Research, Innovation, Political, Economy, SDG 9



Title: “Using qualitative methods in an ethical manner to investigate Sustainable Development Goals”



Speaker: Dr Collence Chisita
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Abstract

Research is key to the realisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is through research that complex societal problems can be tackled. The world is bedevilled by a plethora of problems that requires researchers to generate knowledge in an ethical manner in order to achieve positive results that will transform the world for the better. The SDGs hold hope for mankind because they aim to realise sustainable development by eradicating poverty and hunger, provide quality health services, education, eradicate gender inequalities, provide access to clean water, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, responsible consumption, climate change action, promote peace and justice and partnerships to achieve the goals. SDGs offers a good opportunity to drive and strengthen sustainable development research. The demand for quality research and its usefulness in supporting Agenda 2030 provides higher education with an opportunity to provide solutions to sustainable development. The presentation explores how qualitative research can contribute to the realisation of SDGs. The presentation explores how research provides policy makers with evidence-based information for informed decision making. Qualitative research conducted in an ethical manner provides an opportunity to generate context relevant knowledge. Such knowledge is better positioned to transform society rather than abstract knowledge that is generated by some methodologies.

Key words: research; qualitative research; ethics; partnerships; SDGs

