

UNISA WESTERN CAPE REGION

invites you to the 11th Annual Academic Development Symposium

in partnership with

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT OPEN VIRTUAL HUB (ADOVH)

Rethinking Teaching, Learning and Student Support: Exploring Opportunities for
Innovation and Shaping Future-Ready Graduates in the Age of AI and 5IR

Date: 18-19 September 2025

Preamble

Higher education is being reshaped by the rapid advances of the Fifth Industrial Revolution (5IR) and the transformative power of artificial intelligence. These developments offer exciting opportunities for innovation, but they also raise complex challenges around academic integrity, access to information, and the continued relevance of our qualifications in a world of constant flux.

Student support has undergone a profound shift, especially after the recent pandemic, having to navigate adopting new technologies while ensuring that the personal, human element of care and connection is not lost. This balancing act, often framed in terms of innovation and responsiveness, has more profound implications for how institutions value and support the professionals who work closest to students.

At the same time, meaningful change takes time and resources. As higher education institutions contend with constraints on both fronts, we are challenged to reflect not only on what must change, but on how we can make the most of what we already have to serve our students with purpose and adaptability.

This symposium provides a platform for stakeholders from across the higher education spectrum to reflect and exchange ideas on contributing to innovative strategies within higher education.

We invite reflections, case studies, innovations, and provocations that speak to how we might respond—creatively, collaboratively, and sustainably.

We invite academic and support staff, student affairs professionals, curriculum designers, and higher education practitioners to contribute to this year's conversation in the context of a rapidly evolving technological environment.

Share your experiences, practices, and research on:

- Innovative teaching and learning practices in the age of AI and 5IR
- Student support and care in a digitally evolving environment
- Staff support and care in a digitally evolving environment
- Enhancing graduate attributes and employability
- Addressing academic integrity and access
- Collaborative solutions for skills shortages and institutional adaptability

For more information, contact ctntut@unisa.ac.za

Programme Director: Dr D Chetty

Academic Development Open Virtual Hub (ADOVH)
University of South Africa (Unisa)

Day 1

Thursday, 18 September 2025

Time	Topic / Item	Presenter / Facilitator
08h00-08h30	Arrival and Registration	
08h30-08h45	Welcome	Ms L Joubert Deputy Registrar Student Administration and Systems Integration Unisa
08h45-09h00	Opening Address	Prof M Sepota, Acting Registrar Unisa
09h00-09h45	Keynote Address 1 The impact of AI and 5IR on education	Dr AC Tshivhase Acting Vice Principal, Teaching, Learning, Community Engagement and Student Support Unisa
09h45-10h30	Keynote Address 2 Inclusive education in technology	Mr J Benjamin Chief Director for Curriculum Management and Teacher Development Western Cape Education Department
10h30-11h00	Keynote Address 3	Prof D Gachago CILT - Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching University of Cape Town
11h00- 11h15	Tea	

Parallel Sessions			
Venue: B01	Venue: B02	Staff Research Hub	Venue: B1-41
Innovative teaching and learning practices in the age of AI and 5IR.	Student support and care in a digitally evolving environment.	Staff support and care in a digitally evolving environment.	Enhancing graduate attributes and employability.
11h15 - 11h45			
Perception and challenges of computer-based examination among library and information science students in Federal Polytechnic Ede, Nigeria. <i>Dr UW Madu</i>	The reimagined, smart and technologically enhanced TVET <i>Ms J Esau</i>	Impact of student evaluations on lecturers' mental wellbeing & practice in private Higher Education. <i>Dr C Edson-Ashley</i>	Embedding computational thinking through project-based learning in civil engineering: A case study on seismic analysis of water tanks. <i>Dr MS Pourbehi</i>
11h50 - 12h20			
The Effectiveness of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Fifth Industrial Revolution (5IR) in Education: Innovative Teaching and Learning Best Practices. <i>Mr MC Marakalala</i>	Navigating the digital divide: students' perceptions and preparedness for online learning. <i>Dr M Thobejane</i> <i>Dr E Makwakwa</i>	The psychological impact of modern transformations in higher education: Academic well-being, stressors and coping strategies. <i>Ms B Wright</i>	The 'Relevance' Paradox: A critical reflection on a Coding and Robotics programme in socially and economically disadvantaged communities in the Southern Cape. <i>Ms A Blacker</i>
12h25 - 12h55			
Reimagining Life Sciences Education with AI Utilisation in Initial Teacher Education <i>Dr X Khalo</i>	Reimagining Postgraduate Supervision and Student Wellness: Integrating Human, More-than-Human, and AI-Informed Approaches for Future-Ready Graduates <i>Prof JE Maritz</i>	The Role of the UNISA Law Clinic's Street Law Programme in Empowering Communities through student-led legal education <i>Mr M Vena</i> <i>Mr R Mathebula</i>	Enhancing graduate attributes and employability <i>Mr M Sultan Beg</i> <i>Mr MD Tjikana</i>
13h00-13h30	Plenary	Dr Denzil Chetty	
13h30-13h45	Closing remarks and word of thanks	Mr M Nkgoang Regional Director Unisa Western Cape Region	
13h45	Lunch and Networking		

Programme Director: Dr D Chetty

Academic Development Open Virtual Hub (ADOVH)
University of South Africa

Day 2

Friday, 19 September 2025

Friday, 19 September 2025		
Time	Topic / Item	Presenter / Facilitator
08h00-08h15	Arrival and Registration	
08h15-08h30	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Mr M Nkgoang Regional Director Unisa Western Cape Region
08h30-08h45	Opening Address	Dr P Makgato-Khunou Director Department of Instructional Support and Services Unisa
08h45-09h30	TVET perspective	Dr M Muswaba Chief Executive Officer College of Cape Town TVET College
09h30-10h15	Keynote Address 1 (online)	Prof J Batchelor Vice Dean: Teaching and Learning University of Johannesburg
10h15-11h00	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. E Booie (University of the Western Cape)• Prof A Verhoef (Northwest University)• Dr N Pallitt (Rhodes University)• Dr G Castillion (University of Johannesburg)• Dr H Adendorff (Stellenbosch University)	
11h00-11h15	Tea	
Workshop 1		
11h15-12h00	Masterclass on Researching with Elicit AI	Dr D Chetty Advancing African Digital Humanities Ideation Hub (AADHiH) Unisa
Workshop 2		
12h00-12h45	Curricularising Relational Humanness for Innovative Teaching & Learning in the Age of AI and the 5IR	Dr S Jansen Deputy Director Unisa Western Cape Region
12h45-13h00	Word of thanks	Dr Z Khanyile Senior Counsellor Unisa Western Cape Region
13h00 - 14h00	Lunch and Networking	