



2. Aviation and Aeronautical studies



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 1st 2026 series of CGS-facilitated Catalytic Niche Area Working Group meetings for Aviation and Aeronautical Studies. The theme for series 1 is "Advancing Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity in Catalytic Niche Area Research". In this series, we will anchor our 2026 approach by reaffirming the commitment to expansive conceptualisations of, and multidisciplinary avenues of participation into, the catalytic niche areas. Our framing for this session is: Aviation as a socio-technical system embedded in regulation, geopolitics and sustainability.

Readings:

- Gössling, S., Humpe, A., Bausch, T. (2020) Does 'flight shame' affect social norms? Changing perspectives on the desirability of air travel in *Germany Journal of Cleaner Production* 266 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.12201>
- Okine, E. A., Zarei, E., Roggow, B. J. (2024) Exploring the intellectual insights in aviation safety research: A systematic literature and bibliometric review. *Safety Science* 170 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssci.2023.106354>
- Hopkins, D., Gössling, S., Cohen, S., Hanna, P., Higham, J. E. S. (2023) Aeromasculinities and the fallacy of sustainable aviation. *Energy Research & Social Science* 106 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103319>

Discussion prompts:

- How do cultural narratives and social norms influence aviation demand?
- What does this suggest about the limits of purely technological sustainability solutions?
- What does it mean to study aviation beyond aircraft and aerodynamics?
- How can sustainability and climate justice reshape aviation research agendas?
- Where do policy, ethics and governance sit in aviation research?
- How might aviation research engage public values and behavioural change?
- How does aviation appear differently when viewed as a socio-political system?

Wednesday, 11 March 2026
14:00 – 15:00

REGISTER HERE

<https://forms.office.com/r/uWb1tYCYGW>

ENQUIRIES:

CGScatalyticnicheareas@unisa.ac.za

FACILITATOR:

Prof Jessica Murray



Define tomorrow.

UNISA

