

Summer School

19–31 JANUARY 2026



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI DEPARTMENT



Centre for
Extra-Mural Studies
Open Learning for all

WEEK 1: Monday–Saturday 19–24 January		Page	NEW COURSES: See pages 141–143			WEEK 2: Monday–Saturday 26–31 January (cont.)		Page
9.15 am				Monday 26 January 1.00 pm	Leave some for the honey badger (Mon)	141	3.00 pm	
The Medici women (Mon–Wed)	39			Tuesday 27 January 1.00 pm	From the top of the game to a new frontier (Tues)	142	Art Deco: spirit and splendour (Mon–Wed)	31
The decade that changed the world (Mon–Fri)	57			Thursday 29 January 5.00 pm	Malema: money, power and patronage (Thurs)	143	Adapting Jane Austen (Mon–Wed)	35
Altered states, dreams and archives (Mon–Wed)	110		WEEK 1: Monday–Saturday 19–24 January (cont.)	Page	WEEK 2: Monday–Saturday 26–31 January	Page	Glowfly Dance CANCELLED	49
Big telescopes (Thurs–Fri)	114	4.00 pm		9.15 am			Mastering others' voices (Fri)	86
Living with AI (Thurs–Fri)	131	Campus tour (Thurs)	21	Northern lights (Mon–Wed)	37		The truth about Cape slavery (Mon)	88
9.30 am		5.00 pm		Synaesthesia and the musical mind (Fri)	44		Music and medicine (Wed–Fri)	95
Ways of seeing (Mon–Fri)	139	UCT Distinguished Alumni lecture (Thurs)	19	Hiroshima: eighty years on (Tues–Thurs)	58		Our science, ourselves CANCELLED	120
10.00 am		Understanding Africa–China relations (Mon–Wed)	60	Challenges in land reform (Mon)	72		Cape honey bees: cognitive marvels (Tues)	126
Write your short story (Mon–Fri)	136	Performance through connection (Wed)	70	Why empathy is breaking healthcare (Mon)	98		Rise of the machines (Thurs)	132
11.15 am		Coalition government (Wed)	71	Adolescent mental health (Tues)	99	4.00 pm		
How Western art evolved (Mon–Fri)	28	Desmond Tutu: prophet to power (Mon)	78	Why does that hurt? (Wed)	100	Campus tour (Thurs)	21	
The cosmopolitan Swahili world (Mon–Tues)	59	Navigating retirement (Mon–Tues)	84	Traumatic stress across generations (Thurs)	101	5.00 pm		
Clickbait, chaos and credibility (Thurs)	80	Understanding neurodivergence (Fri)	105	Growing mini brains (Fri)	102		Humour in the Victorian novel CANCELLED	40
Reporting war in the 21st century (Fri)	81	A 'just transition' CANCELLED	111	Perceived scientific paradoxes (Thurs–Fri)	113		The child in post-colonial literature CANCELLED	41
The origins of Western medicine (Wed–Fri)	94	Waiting for evolution (Fri)	129	9.30 am			Jazz legends and their music (Mon)	52
Geological deep time (Mon–Wed)	112	6.00 pm		Images: observed, dreamed and imagined (Mon–Fri)	138		The intelligence operation against Pagad CANCELLED	64
1.00 pm		Prof Bongani Mayosi memorial lecture (Fri)	18	10.00 am			Disinformation: the architecture of oppression (Fri)	89
Light, space and time: physics in art (Mon–Wed)	29	7.00 pm		How to write a novel (Mon–Fri)	137		South Africa's firearm controversies (Tues)	90
Irma Stern: finding her voice (Thurs–Fri)	34	To life, with love (Tues)	54	11.15 am			Human-centred medical innovation CANCELLED	96
Developing South Africa's rural areas (Fri)	63	South Africa's socio-economic potential (Mon–Tues)	62	Design thinking 101 (Fri)	25		Rural clinic to revolutionising care (Thurs)	104
South Africa's evolving criminal landscape (Mon)	77	Solutions to fixing South African education (Fri)	87	The Italian Renaissance (Mon–Tues)	32		Chinese and Japanese gardens (Wed–Fri)	124
The language of emojis (Fri)	85	Out of this world and into the next (Thurs)	121	The Baroque: age of kings (Wed–Fri)	33		Newlands Forest: bark harvesting (Mon)	127
Metro matters: the 2026 elections (Tues)	91	7.30 pm		South African literature before 1948 (Thurs)	42		The CEO and the tech shift in mining (Fri)	134
HIV still matters CANCELLED	106	Celebrating the best of Opera UCT (Wed)	51	South African literature 1948 to 1976 (Fri)	43	6.00 pm		
The Guinea Pig Club (Wed)	107	Saturday 24 January		One writer on the southern peninsula (Tues)	45	Prof Stuart John Saunders lecture (Wed)	17	
Crazy crustaceans (Mon)	115	09.30 am		Rewriting the family (Wed)	46	7.00 pm		
Stupendous spiders (Tues)	116	Helping neurodivergent learners	11	The Afrikaner Rebellion 1914 (Thurs–Fri)	83		Vines, wines and political designs (Tues)	74
Monumental molluscs (Wed)	117	10.00 am		Twentieth century giants of science (Mon–Wed)	109	7.30 pm		
Enterprising echinoderms (Thurs)	118	The battle of Spioenkop	76	Humans in nature (Mon–Wed)	125		Music and the sensuality of harmony (Wed)	53
3.00 pm		Cosmic Africa	122	1.00 pm			Maria Callas: prima donna (Fri)	55
Legacy Society in conversation (Tues)	20	10.45 am		Siena: walls of gold (Tues)	30		The news freshly squeezed (Mon)	92
Shakespeare: the medieval influence (Mon–Wed)	36	Bully dialogues	12	Copy editing and proofreading (Wed)	50	Saturday 31 January		
Music and the sensuality of harmony (Mon–Wed)	38	12.00 pm		Along Karoo roads (Thurs)	65	08.30 am		
Parcel baby (Thurs)	47	AI in schools: the good and the bad	13	Twenty-one years in the Karoo (Fri)	66		Indigenous tree identification	22
South African jazz legends (Thurs)	48	1.00 pm		South Africa in 2026 (Thurs)	67	10.00 am		
Has democracy run its course? (Thurs–Fri)	61	Capturing water	128	How did South Africa's G20 stack up? (Fri)	68		From the bench to the bedside	23
Navigating the Trump global era (Mon)	69	1.30 pm		Cecil John Rhodes in love (Wed)	79		Bee excursion	24
The shadow state (Fri)	73	Teaching <i>Othello</i> to Grade 12s	14	Help with persistent pain? (Fri)	103		The age of decay: ageing, shrinking populations	82
South African Trappist missions (Fri)	75	Children on the autism spectrum	15	Perplexing people (Wed)	119		Bitcoin, blockchain and cryptocurrencies	133
FOR ALL SUMMER SCHOOL ENQUIRIES			READ ABOUT OUR LECTURERS			2.00 pm		
Phone: 021 650 2885 (office) Email: ems@uct.ac.za http://www.summerschool.uct.ac.za			Find biographies on our Summer School 2026 website.			Bee excursion		

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Welcome to Summer School 2026 – a celebration of curiosity, connection and lifelong learning!

Step into a world of ideas, inspiration, and discovery at the 2026 Summer School – where minds of all ages come together to explore, learn, and grow. Whether you're a lifelong learner, a curious newcomer, or a returning participant, we're thrilled to welcome you to two enriching weeks on campus filled with stimulating courses, thought-provoking lectures, and engaging events.

With over 100 offerings across the humanities, sciences, medicine, technology, and the arts, our programme has something for everyone. From creative writing and painting to neuroscience and social change, each session is crafted to deepen your understanding of the world. Popular favourites return this year – including the d-school's dynamic **design thinking workshop** and the ever-popular **campus tours** led by Emeritus Registrar Hugh Amoore, whose storytelling brings the university's history to life.

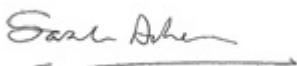
Join us for the annual **Professor Stuart John Saunders and Bongani Mayosi memorial lectures**, and the **Distinguished Alumni lecture**, which honour remarkable university scholars and leaders. These lectures are free to attend and offer an opportunity to connect with others at receptions following the talks.

We're also delighted to continue our partnerships with the **Daily Maverick**, the **Neuroscience Institute**, and **Exclusive Books**, who will once again enrich our experience with lectures, curated reads and book displays. Our charity bookshops return too, along with a daily showcase of impactful nonprofit organisations connected to our lecture themes – offering opportunities to engage, support, and learn more.

Your generosity last year resulted in more than 250 children's books being donated to schools in Masiphumelele – a heartwarming testament to this community's spirit. We invite you to bring along more children's books this year, helping to spark the love of reading in young learners.

We look forward to welcoming you back (or for the first time) to this annual celebration of learning, connection, and community. Come and be part of something special at Africa's top university – where ideas flourish and lifelong learning thrives.

Warm regards,



Sarah
Executive Director
Development and Alumni Department
University of Cape Town



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Thank you to our sponsors

Summer School is grateful to friends, participants and presenters who give in many ways to ensure the successful running of our Summer School programme. We would also like to thank:

Strandveld Vineyards for supplying
First Sighting wines



STRANDVELD
VINEYARDS

The Protea Hotel Marriott and UCT All Africa House for offering a discounted rate for Summer School lecturers and participants



STAY
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All Africa House Tel +27 (0)21 650 4152
Email aah@uct.ac.za

Jonathan Ball Publishers for their support of
lecturers



JonathanBallPublishers

Exclusive Books for partnering with the Summer School programme



The Daily Maverick for partnering with the Summer School programme



The UCT Summer School welcomes sponsorships and donations. Interested companies or individuals can contact Dr Medéé Rall, Centre for Extra-Mural Studies, Department of Alumni and Development, for further information at medee.rall@uct.ac.za or 083 707 6420.

FEE INFORMATION

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

Early bird registration is open from **Friday 31 October until Sunday 9 November 2025** for members of the Friends of Summer School (FOSS), Daily Maverick Insiders, staff, students and those registering for the programme for educators and schools. Webtickets will send you a booking code to use when registering for courses.

DISCOUNTS

Members of the Friends of Summer School and Daily Maverick Insiders receive a 10% discount on all courses except the practical art and writing courses, and performances (see below for information about FOSS).

The Protea Hotel Marriott Mowbray and UCT All Africa House on the university campus have offered a discounted rate for Summer School participants. Please contact protea.mowbray@marriott.com for further information. For information about All Africa House, situated next to the Kramer Law Building, please see: <https://stayandconnect.uct.ac.za/all-africa-house>.

GIVE A GIFT

Treat a friend or family member to a Webtickets gift card for them to pay for Summer School bookings. To purchase, please go to Gift Cards: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/GiftVouchers.aspx>. You will receive a booking code – please forward this to the person for whom you purchased the gift card.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

If the Centre for Extra-Mural Studies cancels a course, Webtickets will issue a refund. Participants will only receive a refund in the case of a medical emergency.

Friends of Summer School: University of Cape Town

All are welcome to become Friends of Summer School (FOSS) members and enjoy the following benefits:

- A free copy of the Summer School brochure
- Early registration for all courses to avoid the disappointment of courses being fully booked
- 10% discount on all lectures and courses except art and writing courses, and performances
- The opportunity to give friends and family gifts of FOSS membership.

As a member of FOSS, you are assisting the Centre for Extra-Mural Studies to provide a Summer School programme of excellence, and also to invite less privileged delegates to attend courses. Please support Summer School from 19 to 31 January 2026.

Queries may be addressed to Dr Medéé Rall at medee.rall@uct.ac.za or 021 650 2885/083 707 6420, or to Bronwyn Geldenhuys at ems@uct.ac.za.

To join FOSS via Webtickets please click on this link:

[Friends of Summer School \(FOSS\): University of Cape Town](https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/GiftVouchers.aspx)

BOOKING INFORMATION

BOOKING BEGINS ON MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2025 (early bird booking begins on Friday 31 October)

All courses will take place in person on the UCT campus in 2026.

The Centre for Extra-Mural Studies office will be open to the public from Friday 31 October 2025 and a helpdesk will be available during the hours stipulated below.

- Monday to Friday, from 31 October to 23 December 2025 8.30 am–4.00 pm
- Closed from noon on Wednesday 24 December 2025
- Reopens Friday 2 January 2026 8.30 am–4.00 pm
- Monday to Friday (from 19 to 31 January 2026 only) 8.30 am–7.00 pm
- Saturday (24 January and 31 January 2026 only) 8.30 am–1.30 pm

HOW TO BOOK AND PAY FOR YOUR COURSES

At the end of each course description, you will find a direct link to Webtickets and a QR code to make booking easier. Participants will need to register or log in to their Webtickets profile to process their transaction on Webtickets.

Register and book online at: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/uctsummerschool>

If you are not familiar with Webtickets and require assistance, you can visit the Webtickets outlet at any Pick n Pay store or at the Baxter Theatre. Alternatively, you can come to the Summer School office or phone the office for assistance with booking your courses at 021 650 2885, or contact the Webtickets customer support team at 0861 999 710, or on WhatsApp (chat only): 072 137 1226, or email info@webtickets.co.za.

HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR TICKETS OR LINKS

Please note that you have 30 minutes to select and pay for your courses before Webtickets will time out. Once you have successfully booked and paid:

- You will receive tickets from Webtickets that can be printed or saved on your phone. Please present your barcoded ticket at the door to the lecture theatre at each lecture.
- **CASUAL ATTENDANCE** It is possible to buy tickets to single lectures of a multi-day course when booking through Webtickets before Summer School starts. Once Summer School begins, tickets can be bought online or at the Webtickets desk on level 2 in the Kramer Law Building.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 2026 Summer School brochure is available free of charge in electronic format. Printed brochures can be obtained at the Summer School office and at Exclusive Books in Cavendish Square at a cost of R55 from **Friday 31 October 2025**. FOSS members can collect copies free of charge at the Summer School office only from **Friday 31 October**.

LENGTH AND TIMES OF LECTURES

Unless otherwise specified, lectures are about 60 minutes in length, including time for questions from the audience. **The views expressed by lecturers are not necessarily those of the Centre for Extra-Mural Studies or the University of Cape Town.**

ON-CAMPUS INFORMATION

Please note that UCT campus is a smoke-free zone, a gun-free area and is cash-free.

PARKING (INCLUDING DISABLED PARKING) See map on the inside back cover. A limited number of Summer School disabled parking disks are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants who use municipal parking disks also need a Summer School parking disk.

ACCESSIBILITY OF BUILDINGS All the venues in the Kramer Law Building are wheelchair accessible. Wheelchair accessible toilets are on Level 4 of the building.

SPECIAL NEEDS The Centre for Extra-Mural Studies will endeavour to assist any participant with special needs. Please contact Dr Medeé Rall at medee.rall@uct.ac.za or 083 707 6420 in advance.



HEARING INDUCTION LOOP Lecture theatres in the Kramer Law Building are equipped with an induction loop system. Hearing-impaired participants who use hearing aids or those with cochlear implants that have a T-coil setting can connect to the induction loop system by switching their hearing aids to the T-coil frequency. If required, sign language interpretation can be provided.

LECTURE THEATRE ETIQUETTE Please switch off all cell phones during lectures.

AIR CONDITIONING The air conditioning in the lecture theatres unfortunately cannot be adjusted internally and is sometimes quite cool; please bring warm clothing with you.

LOST PROPERTY If you lose something, please come to the Summer School office on level 3 or contact Campus Protection Services on level 4; telephone: 021 650 2222.

REFRESHMENTS The cafeteria on level 3 provides refreshments. There will also be a separate coffee station in the quad on level 3 and outside on level 2.

BOOKSHOPS There is an opportunity to browse and buy at the bookstalls for the duration of Summer School.

SUMMER SCHOOL SOCIAL IMPACT INITIATIVES

Summer School has invited a different non-profit organisation (NPO) to host an information table each day. The table will relate to one of the speakers of the day. Please visit these tables which will be located on level 2 near the lecture theatres.

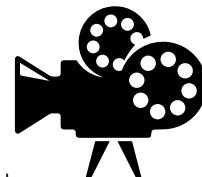
Books will be collected in boxes alongside our bookshop tables for children from nursery school level to grade 12. The books will be distributed to underprivileged schools and libraries. Delegates are invited to bring or buy books to be placed in these boxes.

A certain number of tickets for delegates who need financial assistance will be available on request to the Summer School office. Please contact Dr Medéé Rall at medee.rall@uct.ac.za or 083 707 6420.

SUMMER SCHOOL FILM PROGRAMME

This is a free film programme designed around courses. Films are screened in **Lecture Theatre 1 in the New Economics Building** next to the Kramer Law Building. Due to time and venue constraints, popular screenings cannot always be repeated, nor can clashes with courses and lectures be avoided.

Requests for repeats may be handed in at the Summer School office, addressed to the Summer School film coordinator. Information about the programme, times and venues will be displayed on noticeboards in the Kramer Law Building. Please check the noticeboards regularly for information about changes, repeats or additions.



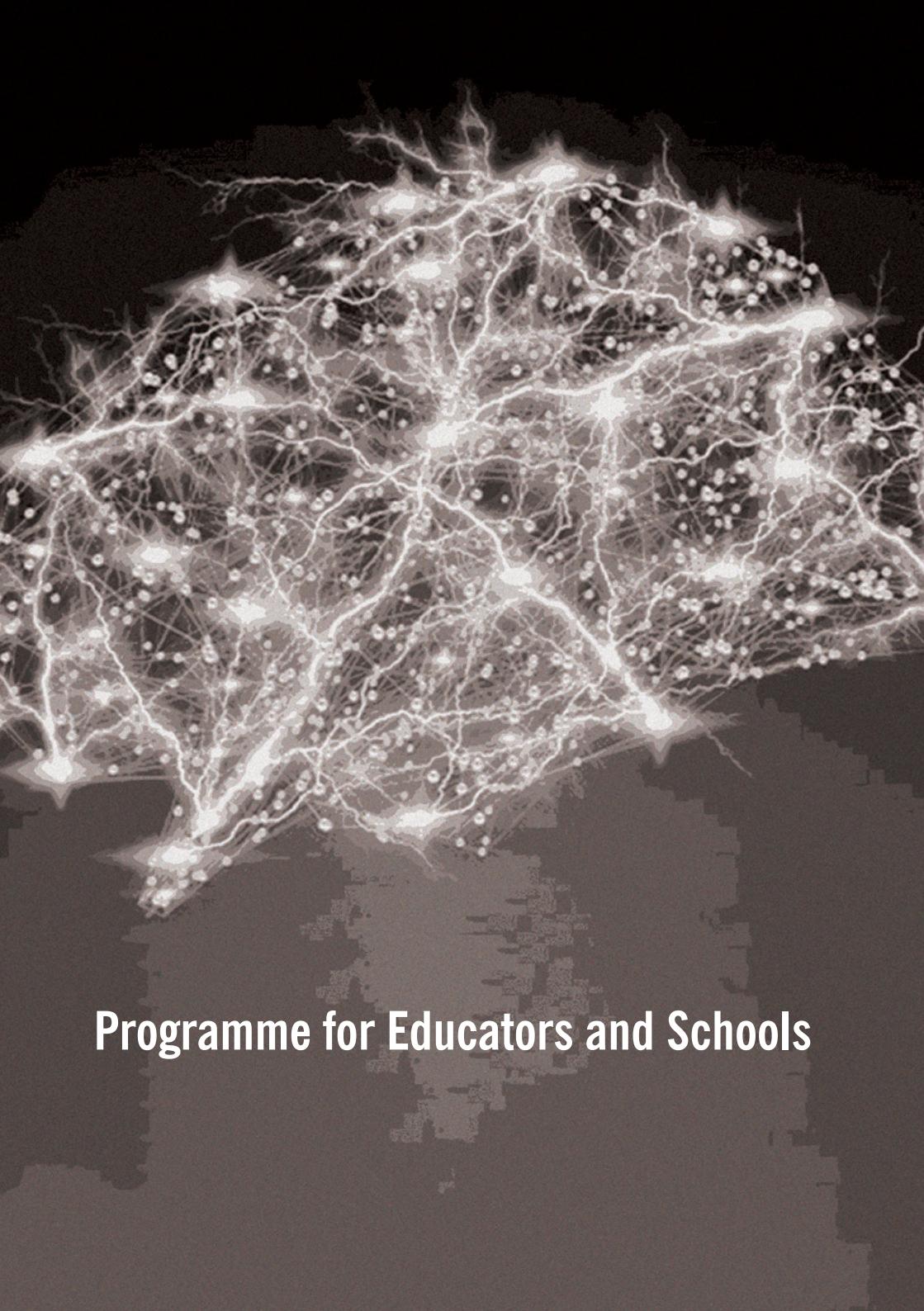
DAILY MAVERICK

As a partner of Summer School 2026, the *Daily Maverick* presents thought-provoking lectures that will add to the knowledge-sharing nature of this long-standing annual event at UCT. Key pillars of our independent journalism include accountability, learning and job creation, a sustainable world and safety and belonging, all of which are addressed over the two weeks of Summer School.

Did you know? All *Daily Maverick*'s content is free and accessible to anyone who wishes to engage with it and that is thanks to our Maverick Insiders. Over 30 000 people choose to pay for a free service which, in turn, pays our journalists' salaries.

If you appreciate our work, please consider joining Maverick Insider. We will never force our readers to pay but for those who can afford it, if we are to sustain independent, quality journalism, we need your help. You choose the amount, and you can cancel at any time. In addition, you get a host of benefits including 50% off tickets to *Daily Maverick* events and a 10% discount on all Summer School courses and lectures except the practical courses, and performances. To join Maverick Insider visit dailymaverick.co.za/insider or scan the QR code.





Programme for Educators and Schools

UCT Summer School is delighted to offer a series of lectures for schools on **Saturday 24 January 2026**. A few critical areas will be dealt with by experts. These lectures are aimed at principals, school educators, sports staff, therapists and parents to enhance understanding and acceptance of learners. The hope is that delegates will leave the event inspired and informed, with determination to ensure new levels of educating.

Saturday 24 January 2026				
Time	Topic	Speaker	Cost	Notes
9.30–10.30 am	Neurodiversity	Dr Nick Davies	R80	
10.45–11.45 am	Bullying	Clinton Fein & Bryan Schimmel	R80	If you choose to attend all three of these lectures the cost is R200.
12.00–1.00 pm	AI	Claude Formanek	R80	
Short lunch break				
1:30–3.00 pm	Teaching Shakespeare's <i>Othello</i> to Grade 12s	Rohan Quince	R80	
OR				
1.30–3.30 pm	Supporting the child on the autism spectrum in the school environment	Lauren Davis & Karen Archer (Bellavista School)	R120	

CPD/SACE points may apply.

Early Bird bookings apply for this programme. See Fee Information, page 5.

FOSS members are eligible for the discount.

If you attend four lectures (the three morning lectures plus one of the afternoon lectures), the discounted price will be R300.

All are welcome. Please send this information to colleagues. Perhaps schools will consider sponsoring the event for those who may be less able to attend. Registration will open with Webtickets on Friday 31 October.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or if you have special needs, please contact Medéé Rall at medee.rall@uct.ac.za or 083 707 6420.

Educators and school principals may also be interested in the lecture by David Wylde on Friday 23 January at 7.00 pm – see page 87 for further information.

An internationally renowned educationalist and author of the book *Fix It: We Can Fix It Together*, David invites participants to join him in envisioning a future where innovative, meaningful actions are combined with kindness and caring to create change in the education sector.

BEYOND DIAGNOSTIC LABELS: SUPPORTING EDUCATORS AND PARENTS IN HELPING NEURODIVERGENT LEARNERS TO REALISE THEIR UNIQUE POTENTIAL

Dr Nick Davies, *clinical psychologist*

Saturday 24 January ■ 9.30–10:30 am ■ COURSE FEE R80

Diagnostic labels can offer valuable signposts, but they are only the beginning and not the destination. This session looks beyond diagnostic terms to the individual learner, recognising that the neurodivergent brain tends to process information differently from the neurotypical brain and, very importantly, that one size does not fit all. Understanding this opens the way to positively impacting the learner's experience and management of a world that is frequently overwhelming and anxiety-provoking, thereby facilitating the child's self-actualisation. Drawing on current research and lived experience, the session offers practical, affirming strategies to help educators and parents unlock potential, build confidence and support every learner in developing their strengths, academic and beyond, and becoming all that they can be.

Recommended reading

Cook, A. 2024. Conceptualisations of Neurodiversity and Barriers to Inclusive Pedagogy in Schools: A Perspective Article. *Journal of Research in Special Educational Needs*, 24(3), pp. 627–636. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-3802.12656>

Han, W. 2025. Dyscalculia and Dyslexia in School-aged Children: Comorbidity, Support and Future Prospects. *Frontiers in Education*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2025.1515216>

McDougal, E, Tai, C, Stewart, TM et al. 2023. Understanding and Supporting Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in the Primary School Classroom: Perspectives of Children with ADHD and their Teachers. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* 53, pp. 3406–3421. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-022-05639-3>

Rajotte, E, Grandisson, M, Couture, MM, Desmarais, C, Chrétien-Vincent, M, Godin, J and Thomas, N. 2024. A Neuroinclusive School Model: Focus on the School, Not on the Child. *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, & Early Intervention*, 18(2), pp. 281–299. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19411243.2024.2341643>

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575466158>



BULLY DIALOGUES

Clinton Fein; Bryan Schimmel, motivational speakers

Saturday 24 January ■ 10.45–11.45 am ■ COURSE FEE R80

Bully Dialogues is a groundbreaking keynote presentation by Bryan Schimmel, a former victim, and Clinton Fein, his former bully. Thirty-seven years after the tumultuous events of their high school years, Schimmel and Fein had a remarkable reconciliation which resulted in both a close friendship and a need to speak out on the mercurial topic of bullying. This rare collaboration explores the topic from both perspectives, challenging conventional narratives around bullying. Through raw unfiltered dialogue they expose the emotional, psychological and social complexities of bullying – why it happens, how it shapes lives, and what can be done to reduce harm. *Bully Dialogues* goes beyond blame and punishment, sparking uncomfortable yet necessary conversations around how bullying is addressed in the home, schools, workplaces, sport and now, most notoriously, in social media.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575466652>



AI IN SCHOOLS: THE GOOD AND THE BAD

Claude Formanek, PhD candidate at University of Cape Town, AI research engineer at InstaDeep Ltd.

Saturday 24 January ■ 12.00–1:00 pm ■ COURSE FEE R80

There are clearly some damaging ways in which AI is infiltrating places of learning, which is of great concern. There is some science, for example, on how people who regularly use ChatGPT for essay writing retain less information on what they are writing and get worse at crafting coherent text in general. On the flip side there is interesting research to show AI tutors that can, in some instances, be very useful and helpful.

In this lecture a balanced view on the use of AI will be provided, with particular reference to the use of AI in schools. It will conclude with a message that is empowering for educators, enabling them to leave the lecture with strategies for using AI to teach in a positive way.

This lecture is aimed at high school educators.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575466935>



TEACHING OTHELLO TO GRADE 12s

Rohan Quince, teacher

Saturday 24 January ■ 1.30–3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEE R80

This lecture offers critical analysis of *Othello* and possible approaches to teaching the play in the classroom. Different theoretical approaches to a literary text and the insights of some famous critics will be surveyed, as well as the cultural/historical background of *Othello*, and the play's history on the stage. We will discuss how to approach the literary essay. There will be enough time for questions and discussion as we go along.

Recommended reading

William Shakespeare, *Othello* (any edition).

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575467254>



SUPPORTING THE CHILD ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Karen Archer, educational psychologist; Lauren Davis, speech-language therapist, Bellavista School

Saturday 24 January ■ 1.30–3.30 pm ■ COURSE FEE R120

Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) have a different, not defective, way of thinking. This lecture will introduce the diagnostic criteria and levels of classification of ASD. We will spend a significant amount of time looking at the cognitive, emotional and social profile of learners with ASD, and will then explore how girls and boys on the autism spectrum present differently from one another. Time will also be spent discussing how schools, health professionals and parents are able collaboratively to support learners on the autism spectrum.

Recommended reading

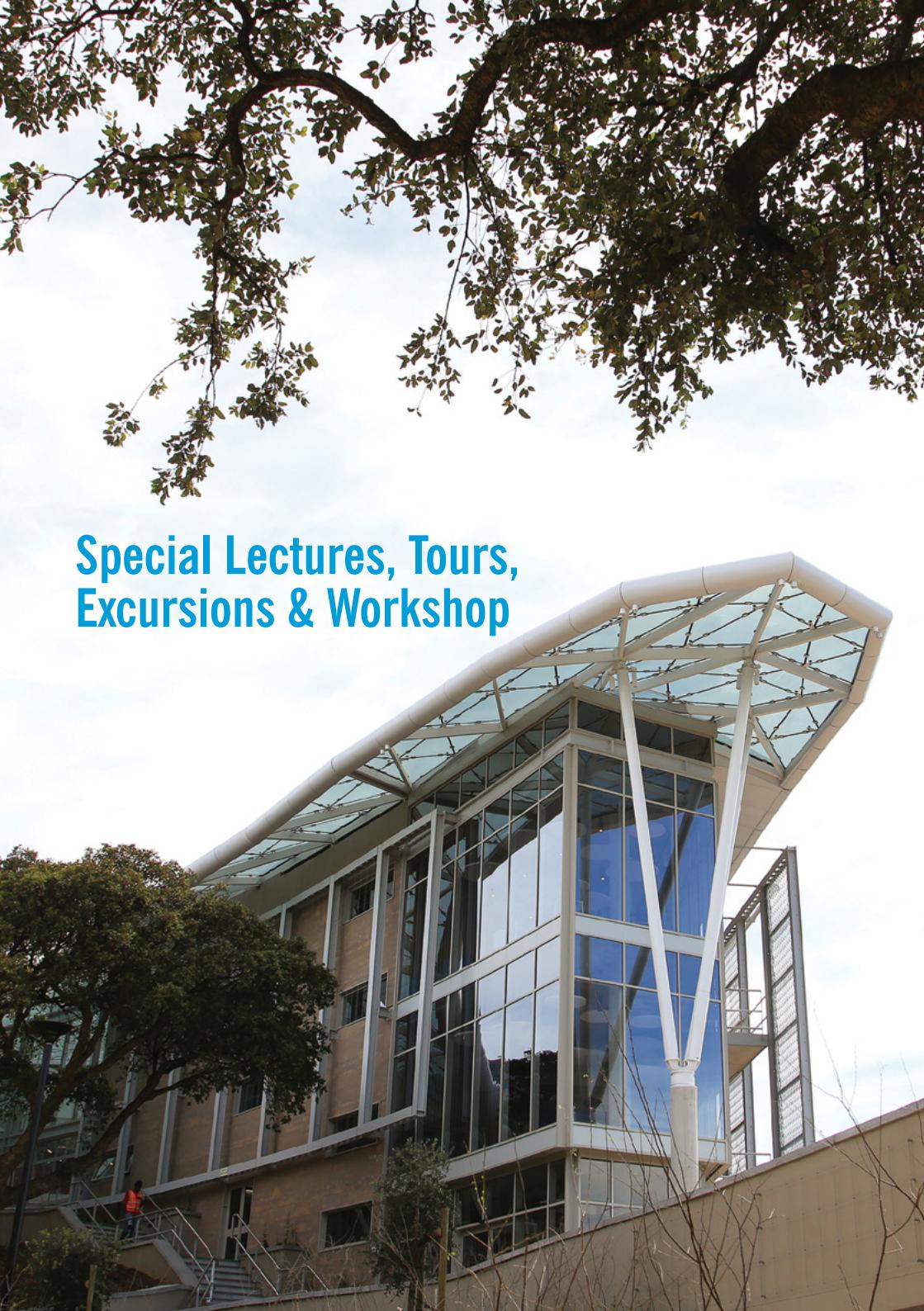
Attwood, T. 2007. *The Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Grandin, T and Attwood, T. 2019. *Autism and Girls*. Arlington: Future Horizons.

Hoopman, K. 2020. *All Cats Are on the Autism Spectrum*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575468004>





Special Lectures, Tours, Excursions & Workshop

PROFESSOR STUART JOHN SAUNDERS LECTURE AGEING AND MEDICINE: THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING THIS RELATIONSHIP

Emeritus Professor Wieland Gevers, University of Cape Town

Wednesday 28 January ■ 6.00 pm (SAST)

■ There will be a reception at 7.00 pm after the lecture.

This lecture is **FREE** but booking is essential to secure a place.

VENUE Neuroscience Institute Auditorium, Groote Schuur Hospital, Anzio Road, Observatory

This lecture series was launched on 9 May 2018 as a tribute to Professor Stuart John Saunders, a former vice-chancellor and professor of medicine at UCT. It has been made possible by his late wife, Anita Johanna Saunders, and is intended to honour the values demonstrated during Professor Saunders' fifteen years at the helm of the university, where he acted as vice-chancellor between 1981 and 1996, as well as the value of his contribution to the medical field.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, Professor Mosa Moshabela, and the Head of Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Mashiko Setshedi, invite you to the fifth annual Professor Stuart John Saunders lecture. The speaker will be distinguished teacher and researcher Emeritus Professor Wieland Gevers.

TO BOOK: <https://wkf.ms/45BZNKn>



PROFESSOR BONGANI MAYOSI MEMORIAL LECTURE

Friday 23 January ■ 6.00 pm

■ There will be a reception at 7.00 pm after the lecture.

This lecture is **FREE** but booking is **essential** to secure a place.

VENUE New Lecture Theatre, Upper Campus

The University of Cape Town hosts the annual Bongani Mayosi memorial lecture at the end of January to coincide with the birthday of the late Professor Mayosi. Professor Bongani Mawethu Mayosi was an outstanding doctor, who rose rapidly through the ranks to become a top cardiologist, recognised internationally as a leading clinician and scientist. He passed away during his tenure as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town.

The annual Bongani Mayosi memorial lecture is an inspirational address in celebration of African scholarship. It seeks to bring African science to the foreground, celebrate Africa's scientists and their excellence, and showcase an approach to the needs of Africa. This lecture strives to inspire scholars at all levels of the journey of enquiry to realise the dream of finding African responses and solutions to Africa's needs and the social determinants of health.

In line with its goals since inception in 2020, this lecture has drawn attendance from individuals in all spheres of life who subscribe to the ideals that Professor Mayosi espoused: equality, social justice, transformation, and excellence in the pursuit of knowledge. The aim is to draw the community into the academic threshold, seeking engagement with the legacy of learning and discovery.

Previous speakers include Professor George Mensah (2021), Director, Centre for Translation Research and Implementation Science at The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH); Dr Matshidiso Moeti (2022), World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa (February 2015 to February 2025); Professor Salim Abdool Karim (2023), Director: CAPRISA, University of Kwazulu-Natal and Professor of Global Health: Columbia University; healthcare entrepreneur Dr Vuyane Mhlomi (2024); and social scientist Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela (2025), South African National Research Foundation Chair in Violent Histories and Transgenerational Trauma, University of Stellenbosch.

The speaker for the 2026 lecture will be announced in due course.

TO BOOK: <https://bit.ly/rsvp-mayosimemoriallecture-2026>



UCT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LECTURE THE STATE OF THE RULE OF LAW

Geoff Budlender SC, advocate

Thursday 22 January ■ 5.00 pm

■ There will be a reception at 6.00 pm after the lecture.

This lecture is **FREE** but booking is essential to secure a place.

The rule of law is a founding value of our Constitution. Thirty years later, many issues are raised about the current state of the rule of law, and the future of the rule of law. This lecture will address the following:

- Is the judiciary independent? Judicial independence at a time of transformation.
- Is the judicial appointment process fit for purpose? What impact has it had on the nature and quality of our judiciary?
- Compliance with the Constitution and orders of the courts.
- 'Justice delayed is justice denied.' Causes, consequences and remedies.
- Law, politics and lawfare: politics by other means?
- The ethical responsibilities of lawyers to the courts, the administration of justice, and the Constitution.
- How to build public confidence in the courts.

Recommended reading

Mafora, D. 2023. *Capture in the Court*. Cape Town: Tafelberg.

Ngcukaitobi, T. 2018. *The Land is Ours*. Cape Town: Penguin Random House South Africa.

Biography

Advocate Geoff Budlender SC appears frequently in the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court of Appeal and High Court, and also in the courts of Namibia and Botswana. He has acted as a judge of the High Court in Johannesburg and Cape Town. He is a Professor Extraordinary in Public Law at Stellenbosch University and was honoured with the George Bizos Human Rights Award. He is the former Chair of the University of Cape Town Council (2004–2008) and was President of the SRC in 1971.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575224253>



LEGACY SOCIETY IN CONVERSATION

HOW THE PATHS OF A BUSINESSMAN AND SCIENTIST CROSSED AND CONVERGED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

Professor Kelly Chibale, Neville Isdell Chair in African-centric Drug Discovery and Development, University of Cape Town; Neville Isdell, former Chairman and CEO, Coca-Cola Company

Tuesday 20 January ■ 3.00 pm

This lecture is **FREE** but booking is **essential** to secure a place.

Malaria remains important in Africa due to its significant impact on health and socio-economic development. Aside from the significant morbidity and mortality it causes in Africa, malaria is a disease of poverty and a cause of poverty. More than two-thirds of all malaria deaths occur in children under five years old. Reaching the overall goal of eliminating malaria will require halting disease transmission.

It is noteworthy that the development of new tools for malaria elimination is pointless without access to the affected communities. There needs to be greater engagement between the affected communities and scientists. An excellent model of community engagement is exemplified by the Isdell: Flowers Cross Border Malaria Initiative (IFCBMI), which is committed to malaria elimination through community mobilisation along the shared borders of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The IFCBMI brings together governments, international partners and scientists with the Anglican church, non-governmental organisations, traditional leaders and community activists from the target countries.

This conversation will highlight how the paths of **Neville Isdell** (a businessman) and **Kelly Chibale** (a scientist) crossed and converged in the fight to eliminate malaria in Africa.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575225299>



CAMPUS TOURS

Emeritus Registrar Hugh Amoore will lead two informal tours of the university's Rondebosch campus

These tours are FREE but booking is essential to secure a place.

Maximum number of participants per tour 40

TOUR 1

Thursday 22 January ■ 4.00 pm

MEETING PLACE The Quad outside the Summer School office, after which we will go to the Summer House.

This ninety-minute tour will start at the Summer House, take in the Woolsack, the d-school, and then a selection of buildings at the north end of the Upper Campus.

Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575226472>



TOUR 2

Thursday 29 January ■ 4.00 pm

MEETING PLACE The Quad outside the Summer School office, after which we will go to the War Memorial.

This ninety-minute tour will start at the War Memorial, take in the two Upper Campus residences via the newer buildings at the south (the New Lecture Theatre and the new engineering building), take in buildings and sites on the western edge, and end in the old students' union and library.

Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575227488>



INDIGENOUS TREE IDENTIFICATION IN NEWLANDS FOREST

Professor Tjakie Naudé, Department of Private Law, University of Cape Town

Saturday 31 January ■ 8.30–11.30 am ■ COURSE FEES R260; Staff and students R210

Maximum number of participants 15

MEETING POINT The sliding gate at the Newlands Forest Fire Station parking area at 8.30 am

When you learn how to identify plants, you often see even more of the beautiful details of each plant, which are a source of awe and joy, and are an inspiration to protect our precious natural areas. This is an indigenous tree identification course in lower Newlands Forest, for a small group which can comfortably gather near a tree.

After stopping at some trees on the way to the stone bridge, we will look at trees a little higher up in the more pristine indigenous forest and come down by way of the Littlewort trail. Participants should therefore be fit enough to manage this.

When identifying individual trees, the presenter will point out what features are relevant to the identification process, for example, whether the leaves are simple or compound, whether the leaves are opposite or alternate, whether the edge of the leaf (leaf margin) is untoothed (entire) or has teeth or serrations, the pattern of the thorns, etc. Explanations of the meanings of the common names of trees (for example, 'assegai' or 'bokdrol' or 'wild almond') will also be given, and sometimes the botanical names, where these highlight characteristic features of the tree, for example, 'stellatifolia' for wild almond means 'star-leaved'.

Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. We will stop for a break should you wish to have a snack.

Recommended reading

iNaturalist page with all 522 plant species observed in Newlands Forest:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=164858&view=species&iconic_taxa=Plantae

iNaturalist list of trees in the Cape Peninsula:

https://www.inaturalist.org/check_lists/3729107-Trees-of-the-Cape-Peninsula/

Trees in Table Mountain National Park on the iNaturalist Trees of Southern Africa ID project website:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=71668&project_id=trees-of-southern-africa-id&view=species

TreePro – The Tree App – South Africa (paid by annual subscription)

There are various tree guides in book form. Eugene Moll and Lindsay Scott wrote a small one with just a drawing of the leaf of each tree, easy to carry around, or the Van Wyks have a medium-size soft cover book with photos. Details available on request.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575227927>



DEMYSTIFYING DRUG DISCOVERY: WHAT IT TAKES TO BRING A NEW MEDICINE FROM THE BENCH TO THE BEDSIDE

Dr John Woodland, Research Officer, Department of Chemistry and Holistic Drug Discovery and Development (H3D) Centre, University of Cape Town

Saturday 31 January ■ 10:00 am–12.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R200; Staff and students R150

Maximum number of participants 20

MEETING POINT Main entrance to the Faculty of Health Sciences, Anzio Road, Observatory

Modern medicines have revolutionised society, from curing infectious diseases to managing chronic conditions and mental health illnesses. But behind every pill lies a lengthy, intricate and often surprising journey – what does it take to discover a new drug, to bring it ‘from the bench to the bedside’?

Historically, drugs were discovered serendipitously and were usually isolated from natural sources. Today drug discovery efforts take many years and cost hundreds of millions of dollars. They require the input of hundreds of specialists from a multitude of backgrounds to ensure that therapeutic compounds are effective and safe. Given these challenges, and the reality that most drug development efforts fail, you may be surprised to learn that we have any medicines at all.

This excursion to UCT’s Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) will begin with an illustrated talk that traces the drug discovery and development pipeline from molecular optimisation to biological testing and ultimately (if successful) to patient care. It will be followed by a tour of the cutting-edge laboratories that contribute directly to addressing the important health challenges of our time.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575229326>



EXCURSION: THE CAPE TOWN HONEY COMPANY

Chris Nicklin, apiarist, documentary film maker

Saturday 31 January ■ 10.00 am–12.00 pm ■ Saturday 31 January ■ 2.00–4.00 pm

COURSE FEES R200; Staff and students R150

Maximum number of participants 12

MEETING POINT The Cape Town Honey Company, Oude Raapkraal, Westlake Avenue, Lakeside

Places for the two excursions will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Experience the captivating world of bees during the peak of the summer 'honey flow' in these exclusive api-tourism excursions. Participants will don full beekeeping gear and venture into the heart of a working apiary where they'll observe the remarkable Cape honey bee (*Apis mellifera capensis*) in action – an indigenous honey bee subspecies renowned for its unique biology and vital role in South Africa's biodiversity.

Guided by expert beekeepers, participants will explore the inner workings of a hive, from honeycomb construction to hunting the queen bee. This immersive encounter will be followed by a tutored honey tasting, showcasing the Cape's finest varietals – floral fynbos honey, rich wildflower honey and some rare West Coast harvests. As C. Marina Marchese describes in her recently published *The World Atlas of Honey*, tasting honey is a 'glorious sensory journey' where terroir, aroma and texture tell the story of the landscape. Participants will learn to discern notes of caramel, herbs and citrus, deepening their appreciation of this ancient delicacy.

This hands-on educational adventure blends ecology, gastronomy and sustainability – perfect for nature lovers and food enthusiasts alike.

Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

These excursions are related to the course on page 126.

TO BOOK:

Saturday 31 January 10.00 am: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575468580>



Saturday 31 January 2.00 pm: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575526682>



DESIGN THINKING 101

Established in August 2015 at the University of Cape Town, the d-school Afrika is the third Hasso Plattner School of Design Thinking, joining the ranks of the d-school at Stanford University, United States of America, and the HPI d-school in Potsdam, Germany

Friday 30 January ■ 11.15 am–1.45 pm

This workshop is **FREE** but it is essential to **book** to secure a place.

Maximum number of participants 40

VENUE d-school, Cross Campus Road, Middle Campus

As a vibrant hub for training and research, the d-school Afrika offers design thinking programmes for students, NGOs, and private and public organisations. The school is committed to equipping people with the mindset and tools necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving world, helping them unlock their creative potential.

Join us for a two-and-a-half-hour session to discover the d-school Afrika and to participate in a collaborative problem-solving challenge using design thinking. This session is perfect for those eager to explore the basics of design thinking.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of key concepts such as human-centred design and will learn how to use empathy to create better solutions. It is a relaxed and enjoyable experience where experimentation and new ideas are encouraged. Everyone is welcome and no prior experience is necessary. Come ready to collaborate and bring your curiosity.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575231360>



UCT AND SURROUNDS HERITAGE ROUTE

There are several interesting heritage sites situated close to UCT. If you have free time between courses, these are a few of the noteworthy places – some with a link to UCT – that you could visit.

More information, including a map, addresses and opening hours, is available at
<https://mapmyway.co.za/curated-route/uct-summer-school-curated-heritage-route>

Places to visit include:

- The Irma Stern Museum
- SS *Mendi* Memorial
- Rhodes Memorial
- Baxter Theatre Centre
- Montebello Design Centre
- Newlands Spring
- South African Breweries
- Josephine Mill

No booking is required and there is no cost for visiting these sites.

A bronze statue of the titan Atlas, shown from the waist up, holding the celestial spheres on his shoulders. He is standing on a circular base. In the background, the tall, light-colored Art Deco skyscraper of the Rockefeller Center is visible against a clear blue sky.

Literature, Art & Music

ACTION AND REACTION: HOW WESTERN ART EVOLVED

Distinguished Emeritus Professor Ian A Aaronson, Medical University of South Carolina, United States of America

Monday 19–Friday 23 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R575; Staff and students R290

This course will explore the political, social and cultural forces that shaped Western art, reflected in the lives and work of its most transformative artists.

We will first discover how the rivalry between Siena and Florence spurred the groundbreaking frescoes of Giotto and Masaccio, which in turn paved the way for Michelangelo's sublime paintings in the Sistine Chapel.

We will then see how, in northern Europe, the ideas of Erasmus of Rotterdam and Martin Luther introduced a humanist element into the religious paintings of Jan van Eyck, culminating in Pieter Bruegel's busy depictions of everyday life.

We will next discover how the frivolous fantasies of Watteau and Fragonard were out of step with the Age of Reason, resulting in the cool yet powerful paintings of Jacques-Louis David. We will go on to see how the social strife that followed France's defeat in its war against Prussia, together with Baron Haussmann's transformation of the face of Paris, contributed to Edgar Degas' revolutionary way of capturing urban life.

In the final lecture we will explore the role of the artist as advocate, through the searing etchings and paintings of Francisco Goya and the harrowing performance pieces by Marina Abramović exposing the horrors of war, as well as the arresting black and white photographs of South Africa's Zanele Muholi, which give a voice to those marginalised by society.

Lecture titles

1. Giotto and Masaccio: laying the foundations of the Italian Renaissance
2. Jan van Eyck and Pieter Bruegel: the Northern Renaissance at a crossroads
3. Jacques-Louis David and Eugène Delacroix: the quest for new directions
4. Gustave Courbet and Edouard Manet: framing the Impressionists' agenda
5. William Kentridge and Ai Weiwei: pillars in the Age of Advocacy

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575231909>



LIGHT, SPACE AND TIME: PHYSICS IN ART

Hilary Hope Guise, professor of art history, Florida State University, United States of America

Monday 19–Wednesday 21 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

The interpretation of light, space and time in art has been influenced by prevailing theological and philosophical ideas, and by the irresistible pull of the zeitgeist through social and political forces. As faith waned, for example, we discover that shadows appear and begin to lengthen and darkness crowds in, eventually leading to the complete annihilation of light in totally black canvases. A deep fear of invisible spiritual forces through the Middle Ages manifested as a fear of space itself. But space is rediscovered in step with the advance of intellectual freedom. As the modern industrial world speeds up, brushstrokes get faster and eventually disappear altogether, annihilating the human gesture in machine-made consumerist images. We find that boundaries blur and structures fracture. Can time be framed if it is constantly changing and nearly all art is static?

This course will demonstrate how artists through the ages have navigated the difficulties of conveying the enduring laws of physics: light, space and time.

Lecture titles

1. Light
2. Space
3. Time

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575233976>



Siena: Walls of Gold

Hilary Hope Guise, professor of art history, Florida State University, United States of America

Tuesday 27 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Siena, established in 1225, was a republic for over four hundred years. This enabled it to become one of the most powerful economic and cultural cities in Europe in the Middle Ages. Siena was run by an oligarchy led by nine mercantile bankers, which enabled the city to attract great wealth and gain stability. The culture of Siena, with its apparently limitless resources of gold and precious pigments, oozed an almost Near Eastern opulence. Siena benefited directly from the disaster of the Fourth Crusade in 1204. With the sacking of Constantinople, Constantine's own city, and the ravaging of the churches – including Hagia Sophia – the artisans and the Greek icon painters fled to Italy, taking their skills and their iconographic traditions with them. The work of these artisans and icon painters inspired the panels of Duccio, the Di Cione brothers, the Lorenzetti brothers and Simone Martini. These works have never been equalled for their refinement and the solemnity of their messages.

In this lecture we will explore the intense gilded beauty of these precious objects of veneration that have survived for almost eight hundred years, carrying with them the calm and ethereal, other-worldly spirit of a faith rising to its zenith, expressed in a silent language of reflection and contemplation.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575235241>



ART DECO: SPIRIT AND SPLENDOUR

Kenneth McGillivray, author, artist and text editor

Monday 26–Wednesday 28 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

This course will explore the origins, evolution and enduring worldwide influence of Art Deco as the major design movement of the twentieth and now also the twenty-first century. First, the transition from Art Nouveau to Art Deco is illustrated, after which we focus on the central period of its development from 1910 to 1939. The 1925 Paris exhibition – the centenary of which we celebrated in 2025 – stimulated the influence of the style worldwide.

In addition, the ensuing dissemination of the style throughout the Americas, Europe, Australia, South Africa and India was characterised by the adoption of local cultures and symbols. Then, major contributors to the style such as Josef Hoffmann, Robert Mallet-Stevens, Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann, René Lalique, Edgar Brandt, Demétrę Chiparus and Louis-François Cartier will be introduced, showing examples of their Art Deco-influenced creations. The contributions to the style of this period made by personalities such as Josephine Baker, Chanel, Erik Satie, Sergei Diaghilev and others will also feature. Furthermore, the influences of the artistic movements of Cubism, De Stijl, Surrealism, Fauvism and Constructivism will be discussed, accompanied by definitive illustrations.

This postwar period of radical social change saw factors such as the gradual introduction of paid workers' holidays and the rise of an increasingly affluent middle class spark a surge in tourism, marked by the introduction of the cult of the motorcar, commercial air travel, sumptuous rail excursions and a fleet of luxurious cruise liners.

The spirit and splendour of Art Deco permeated every aspect of life and its enduring legacy is still with us today – as will become apparent in this course.

Lecture titles

1. Origins of the style and the international impact of the 1925 Paris exhibition
2. Architecture, artefacts, ephemera and all that jazz ...
3. 'Forgotten' Antwerp 1930, 'sailing down to Rio' and other excursions

Recommended reading

Benton, C, Benton, T and Wood, G. 2003. *Art Deco: 1910–1939*. United Kingdom: V&A Publications.

Duncan, A. 2009. *Art Deco Complete: The Definitive Guide to the Decorative Arts of the 1920s and 1930s*. United Kingdom: Thames & Hudson.

Hiller, B. 1971. *The World of Art Deco*. United Kingdom: Studio Vista.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575235775>



THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE: THE DAWN OF MODERN TIMES

Elizabeth Handley, accredited lecturer, Arts Society, United Kingdom

Monday 26–Tuesday 27 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

When, exactly, did the Renaissance begin? Some believe that changes in thinking and artistic styles first appeared at the turn of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, while others date these events a century later. Perhaps there were already 'Renaissance-like' manifestations in Europe during the Middle Ages – that thousand-year period of relative ignorance and superstition that followed the fall of the Roman Empire.

Regarded as the beginning of modern times, the Renaissance swept away customs and institutions that had dominated Europe for centuries. The first visible manifestations in the arts can be discerned in Italy, where there was an explosion of creativity by men and women of exceptional genius.

But why did the Renaissance even begin, and why in Italy? Answers to these questions will be explored in these lectures, illustrated with beautiful images and glorious music.

Lecture titles

1. The Renaissance: early manifestations
2. High and Late Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, the early Baroque

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575236361>



THE BAROQUE: AGE OF KINGS

Elizabeth Handley, accredited lecturer, Arts Society, United Kingdom

Wednesday 28–Friday 30 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

Turbulent, theatrical and highly ornate, this is the aesthetic of the Baroque, the age of absolutism – the ‘divine right of Kings’. Gone are the ethereal *a cappella* of the Middle Ages and dulcet tones of the Renaissance. The term ‘Baroque’ came to designate the period in the arts from roughly 1600 to 1750 and encompasses the careers of some of the greatest painters, sculptors, architects and composers the Western world has ever produced.

Originally carrying negative connotations, Baroque art is now regarded as robust and decorative, massive and grandiose, complex and full of motion. This course explores the way in which the Baroque masters followed on from the great artists of the High Renaissance but infused their work with a vigorous new spirit. Luxurious display and unlimited magnificence and splendour framed the extravagant life of the courts – regardless of cost.

We begin in Italy in around 1600 when Rome became the fountainhead of the Baroque movement, reflecting a Catholic reaction to the advance of Protestantism. We continue to Spain, where architects enthusiastically took up the Italian Baroque style. The second lecture covers the great age of Dutch and Flemish painting which took place during a long period of stability in the Low Countries. We proceed to the German states where, after decades of war and chaos, peace and stability meant that large-scale artistic projects could be undertaken once again. The final lecture takes us to England where, after the return of Charles II from exile in France, the English Restoration marked an outburst of pent-up energy following the austere years of Cromwell’s Commonwealth. We conclude with the Baroque in France, where, as in Italy, we find masters in every field of artistic expression: painting, architecture, sculpture, literature and music.

Lecture titles

1. Introducing the Baroque: Mediterranean masterpieces in Italy and Spain
2. Developments in Flanders, the Netherlands and the German states
3. Grand finale: England and France

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575237679>



IRMA STERN: FINDING HER VOICE

Phillippa Duncan, researcher, writer, advisor

Thursday 22–Friday 23 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

Irma Stern is the most famous twentieth-century South African artist. Given that nearly 150 years have passed since her birth, and 2026 marks 60 years since she died, why is she still such a compelling personality and artist? The lectures will explore the voice of Stern through her correspondence with friends and colleagues, as well as her writing, and will use specific examples to illustrate her personal and social connections.

Lecture titles

1. Irma Stern: her work, her life, her words
2. Irma Stern: artist and sitter, the power of place

Recommended reading

Arnold, M. 2003. A Reputation in Print in *Irma Stern: Expressions of a Journey*. Johannesburg: Standard Bank Gallery.

Below, I. 2003. Between Africa and Europe in *Irma Stern: Expressions of a Journey*. Johannesburg: Standard Bank Gallery.

Higgin, J. 2021. *The Mirror and the Palette: Rebellion, Revolution and Resilience: 500 Years of Women's Self-Portraits*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

Klopper, S. 2017. *Irma Stern: Are You Still Alive?* Cape Town: Orisha Publishing.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575238523>



ADAPTING JANE AUSTEN

Emerita Associate Professor Lesley Marx, Centre for Film and Media Studies, University of Cape Town

Monday 26–Wednesday 28 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

Jane Austen's 250th birthday on 16 December 2025 is being widely celebrated – in events both scholarly and carnivalesque – by readers and writers who cherish the gift of her novels. Among her most avid beneficiaries are those screenwriters and film directors who rejoice in her sharply observed characters, exquisite scene construction, lively dialogue and perfectly fashioned narratives. No wonder that film and television adaptations of her work have burgeoned during the last century, including the mostly reverential BBC productions of the 1980s, the imaginative work of the 1990s and 2000s, and the controversial, even bizarre, efforts of recent years.

This course, richly illustrated with clips, will focus on adaptations of *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*. We will explore how these films and television serials have either given deft expression to the complexities of their source material, or have subsumed those complexities into the generic conventions of romantic comedy. Comment will be made on the particular challenges faced by those who have attempted adaptations of *Northanger Abbey*, *Mansfield Park* and *Persuasion*.

The course will be shaped around 'the sense of an ending': how are endings in the novels crafted, what do they tell us about the story and its characters, what feelings do they evoke and what worlds and ideas do they summon? Furthermore, how are the tools of film and television – screenwriting, casting, cinematography, score, lighting, costume, set design, direction, editing – used to adapt and interpret these endings? And how does social context inform both the novels and the adaptations?

Lecture titles

1. *Sense and Sensibility*
2. *Pride and Prejudice*
3. *Emma*

Recommended reading

Austen, J. 1811. *Sense and Sensibility*. London: Thomas Egerton.

Austen, J. 1813. *Pride and Prejudice*. London: Thomas Egerton.

Austen, J. 1815. *Emma*. London: John Murray.

Any editions of the above novels.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575239475>



THE INFLUENCE OF THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD ON SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS

Emeritus Professor Michael FM James, Department of Anaesthesia, University of Cape Town

Monday 19–Wednesday 21 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

The medieval period in England is regarded as the time from the collapse of Roman hegemony (c500 CE) to the last of the Plantagenets (1485) and usurpation by the Tudors. Eight of Shakespeare's ten history plays were set in, and influenced by, the medieval period, as well as some of the tragedies, notably *Macbeth*. The major medieval influence in Shakespeare's time was the relatively recent 'Wars of the Roses', since the outcome led to the rise of the Tudors who dominated Shakespeare's world. The first two lectures focus on the Wars of the Roses tetralogy (*Henry VI* 1–3 and *Richard III*), finishing with an alternative view of Richard to that portrayed by the Bard. This tetralogy was among the first of his plays and established Shakespeare's popularity. The ascension of James I/VI following the death of the last Tudor, Elizabeth I, created a new environment and a need for Shakespeare to establish his influence in the much-changed royal court. The story of Macbeth falls in the middle of the medieval period (c1005–1057) and, although the play bears no resemblance to the historical character, it has strong medieval influences.

Lecture titles

1. The Wars of the Roses and Shakespeare's early plays
2. Was Richard III the outright villain portrayed by Shakespeare?
3. James I/VI, the Gunpowder Plot and Macbeth

Recommended reading

Bryson, B. 2007. *Shakespeare: The World as a Stage*. New York: HarperCollins.

Wilson, I. 1993. *Shakespeare: The Evidence*. United Kingdom: Headline Book Publishing.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575239793>



NORTHERN LIGHTS

Karin Fernald, performer, independent lecturer, Arts Society, United Kingdom

Monday 26–Wednesday 28 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

This course will highlight past conflicts and traumatic events in the Nordic countries. The first lecture discusses the brief Empire of Sweden, its struggle against the Danes, and its heroes Gustav I Vasa, Gustavus Adolphus and Charles XII. We then look at the life and work of Carl Linnaeus, who hoped to make his country 'great again' through the nurture and export of edible plants. The second lecture examines how the Enlightenment arrived in absolutist Denmark – too suddenly and too soon – in the person of a German doctor. King Christian VII is mad; the doctor calms him; his young English queen falls in love with the doctor. It all ends badly, but the doctor's idealism sows the seeds of a future Denmark. The final lecture focuses on ninth-century Swedish, Norwegian and Danish artists, each in search of a national landscape. In Sweden the beautiful province of Dalarna is iconic, in Norway the mountains and western fjords, and in Denmark the sand dunes of northern Jutland where two seas meet.

Lecture titles

1. Lions of the north
2. A right royal Danish drama (not Hamlet)
3. The blue hour

Recommended reading

Enquist, PO and Nunally, TN. 2003. *The Visit of the Royal Physician*. London: Vintage/Ebury.

Koerner, L. 1999. *Linnaeus: Nature and Nation*. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Larsson, C. 1991. *The World of Carl Larsson*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

The Arts Council of Great Britain. 1986. *Dreams of a Summer Night*. Manchester.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575242027>



MUSIC AND THE SENSUALITY OF HARMONY (COURSE)

Grant McLachlan, lecturer, South African College of Music, University of Cape Town

Monday 19–Wednesday 21 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

We all know that major keys are the 'happy' keys, and give us a sense of well-being. The major third is what gives the major chord its character. Yet in the music of Medieval Europe the major third is avoided at all costs. We explore why this is and why this seductive interval took the music world by storm at the start of the Renaissance period.

The Baroque period saw the growth and establishment of modern harmony as we know and use it now. We explore how the development of different tuning systems struggled to keep up with the more adventurous harmonic experiments of composers from Monteverdi to Bach, as well as the importance of the role that Johann Sebastian Bach played in the way we use harmony in the twenty-first century.

The growth of jazz in the early twentieth century gave a new meaning to the sensuality of harmony, and the more serious composers took these innovations on board. Composers such as Gershwin straddled the two genres, while composers like Rachmaninov and Poulenc explored new areas of musical seductiveness.

Lecture titles

1. The seductive interval: the major third
2. The Baroque period and the birth of modern harmony
3. Harmony in the 20th and 21st century: a new seductiveness

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575243953>



THE MEDICI WOMEN

Michael Barbour, art guide

Monday 19–Wednesday 21 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

Medici hegemony in Florence spread across time from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries. The famous men, from Cosimo il Vecchio and Lorenzo il Magnifico to Cosimo I and the Grand Dukes of course had mothers, wives and sisters – often mentioned only by name or listed on a family tree.

Some of these women who were born de Medici or who married into the family were, in their own right, notable contributors to the culture, enterprise, power and collections of this remarkable dynasty. There were those on whom the limelight fell and accordingly attracted public admiration or disdain: contemporary comments described one as 'a dangerous sorceress' and another as 'a wise, sovereign woman'. Then there were those who confined their roles to maternal and uxorial concerns, and others who managed family, as well as charitable or cultural or religious activities, at a discreet distance from the pomp and power that surrounded them.

Lecture titles

1. Wives and mothers
2. The duchesses
3. The queens

Recommended reading

Acton, H. 1980. *The Last Medici*. Florence: Scala/Becocci Editore.
Cardini, F. 1996. *The Medici Women*. Florence: Vincenzo Rita & Arnaud Editore.
Strathern, P. 2007. *The Medici*. London: Vintage Books.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575244234>



'WHAT TO DO WITH NOODLE?': HUMOUR IN THE VICTORIAN NOVEL

Dr Rohan Quince, author; Jillian Vigrass, teacher and author; Jeremy Fogg, researcher

Tuesday 27 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Victorian novels deal with the important things in life: marriage, money, politics – and how to deal with foreigners. Victorian writers created wonderfully memorable characters who quarrel and gossip and fall in love, while we chuckle at their human failings and foibles.

Using scenes from the novels, the presenters bring to life some of the eccentric characters who populate the fictional world of writers like Charles Dickens, George Eliot and Anthony Trollope.

Recommended reading

Dickens, C. 1849. *David Copperfield*. London: Bradbury & Evans.

Dickens, C. 1852. *Bleak House*. London: Bradbury & Evans.

Eliot, G. 1860. *The Mill on the Floss*. London: William Blackwood and Sons.

Eliot, G. 1871. *Middlemarch*. London: William Blackwood and Sons.

Trollope, A. 1857. *Barchester Towers*. London: Longmans.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/Performance.aspx?lmid=1575249241>



CANCELLED

WRITERS BEAR WITNESS: 'DO ANGELS WEAR BRASSIÈRES?' THE CHILD IN POST-COLONIAL LITERATURE

Dr Rohan Quince, author; Jillian Vigrass, teacher and author; Jeremy Fogg, researcher

Wednesday 28 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

What is life like after independence from colonial rule? Is it the longed-for Utopia? What new challenges must people face? And what is the experience of the child?

In this performance-lecture we explore how the themes of post-colonial writing, such as identity, heritage and power, are refracted through the figure of the child in post-colonial writing by authors from countries that gained independence from Britain in the twentieth century.

From one hundred countries in the world in 1950, the number rose to one hundred and fifty by 1979, as new nations gained independence from European empires. But the joy of *Uhuru* was soon challenged by the harsh realities of the modern world. The myriad questions that arose proved to be rich fodder for a new generation of writers from across the world, whose works have immeasurably enriched the Western canon and created the vast body of world literature we enjoy today.

Chinua Achebe, Salman Rushdie, Olive Senior, Ingrid Bharker, Wole Soyinka, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Bernadine Evaristo and Trevor Noah are among the many writers whose child characters voice the dramatic, sad and funny stories of our brave new world.

Recommended reading

Achebe, C. 1958. *Things Fall Apart*. London: Heinemann.
Adichie, C. 2003. *Purple Hibiscus*. North Carolina: Algonquin Books.
Noah, T. 2016. *Born a Crime*. New York: Spiegel and Grau.
Rushdie, S. 1981. *Satnight's Children*. United Kingdom: Jonathan Cape.
Senior, O. 1989. *Arrival of the Snake Women and Other Stories*. United Kingdom: Longman Caribbean Writers.
Soyinka, W. 1994. *Ibadan*. New York: Methuen Publishing Ltd.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575248146>



WRITERS BEAR WITNESS: SOUTH AFRICAN ENGLISH LITERATURE BEFORE 1948

Dr Rohan Quince, author; Jillian Vigrass, teacher and author; Jeremy Fogg, researcher

Thursday 29 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Between the 1820s and 1948, writers from Thomas Pringle to Alan Paton told the story of South Africa. Pringle, 'the father of South African literature', described the 1820s Cape landscape and people, and advocated for the rights of both settlers and indigenous people. Olive Schreiner captured life in the Karoo in her 1883 novel, *The Story of an African Farm*. In the 1870s and 1880s, Wilhelm Bleek and Lucy Lloyd translated the stories and experiences of the |Xam.

Sol Plaatje's *Boer War Diary* and Denys Reitz's *Commando* recorded the Boer War. South Africans participated in the two world wars, and authors like Reitz and Guy Butler described their experiences.

In 1924 Roy Campbell became the first South African poet to achieve international acclaim with *Flaming Terrapin*. Authors like Pauline Smith, William Plomer, Thomas Mofolo and Herman Charles Bosman conveyed the complexities of our society. In 1947, on the eve of apartheid, Alan Paton published *Cry the Beloved Country*, a novel that conveys, with deep empathy, the plight of a rural Zulu father searching for his lost son in Johannesburg.

In narration and performance we show how South African writers up to 1948 shone a light on South African history.

Recommended reading

Bosman, HC. 1947. *Mafeking Road*. Johannesburg: Central News Agency.
Mofolo, T. 1925. *Chaka*. Lesotho: Waveland Press.
Paton, A. 1948. *Cry the Beloved Country*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
Plaatje, S. 1916. *Native Life in South Africa*. Johannesburg: Pan Macmillan South Africa.
Schreiner, O. 1883. *The Story of an African Farm*. London: Chapman and Hall.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575245009>



WRITERS BEAR WITNESS: SOUTH AFRICAN ENGLISH LITERATURE 1948 TO 1976

Dr Rohan Quince, author; Jillian Vigrass, teacher and author; Jeremy Fogg, researcher

Friday 30 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

In 1948, as the National Party took power in South Africa, Alan Paton's *Cry the Beloved Country* was achieving international success. The 1950s saw the imposition of strict segregation – and an explosion of writing, much of it critical of the new order. Novelists such as Nadine Gordimer, Dan Jacobson and Peter Abrahams gained international recognition. *DRUM* magazine empowered young black writers like Can Themba and Es'kia Mphahlele.

The 1960s saw more oppressive segregation, with growing resistance, and increasingly violent suppression by the state. Athol Fugard dramatised it on stage; Douglas Livingstone, Ingrid Jonker and Dennis Brutus responded in verse; Alex La Guma and James Matthews conveyed it in stories.

In the early 1970s, poet Oswald Mtshali published *Sounds of a Cowhide Drum*, JM Coetzee published *Dusklands*, and Gordimer won the Booker prize for *The Conservationist*. Athol Fugard, John Kani and Winston Ntshona collaborated on *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* and *The Island*. Many writers were to find their work and themselves banned. In this presentation we tell the story of these years and perform excerpts showing how South Africa's authors have illuminated our complicated history.

Recommended reading

Coetzee, JM. 1974. *Dusklands*. Johannesburg: Ravan Press.
Fugard, A. 1993. *Township Plays*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.
Gordimer, N. 1975. *No Place Like*. United Kingdom: Jonathan Cape.
La Guma, A. 1962. *A Walk in the Night*. Illinois: Northwestern University Press.
Mphahlele, E. 1959. *Down Second Avenue*. United Kingdom: Faber and Faber.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575245787>



SEEING SOUND, HEARING COLOUR: SYNAESTHESIA AND THE MUSICAL MIND

Dr John Woodland, broadcaster, *Fine Music Radio*; founder and artistic director, *VOX Cape Town*; Research Officer, Department of Chemistry and Holistic Drug Discovery and Development (H3D) Centre, University of Cape Town

Friday 30 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

For most of us, listening to music is an exclusively aural experience. But some might 'see' a particular musical key as a colour, or associate flavours with the timbres of different instruments. This mingling of the senses, or synaesthesia, would lead musicians such as Franz Liszt to baffle orchestras with requests such as, 'Gentlemen, a little bluer, if you please – this tone requires it!' When she was young, the composer Amy Beach would ask her mother to play 'the purple music' or 'the green music'. In the last century it was deemed fashionable to have synaesthesia – although Sibelius hid his unusual talent to avoid being mocked by his colleagues.

This richly illustrated lecture will explore how synaesthesia, an unusual way of experiencing the world, influenced the music-making of these composers. It will also consider contemporary synaesthetes, such as Leonard Bernstein, Itzhak Perlman and Hélène Grimaud, as well as the way in which synaesthetic experiences impact on other disciplines, such as literature and science.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/Performance.aspx?itemid=1575249641>



LOCAL INSPIRATION: ONE WRITER ON THE SOUTHERN PENINSULA

Dr Finuala Dowling, poet, novelist and teacher

Tuesday 27 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Many writing careers have been set off by a love of place, and in some novels, place is as important as character. Finuala Dowling discusses, with illustrations, the role played by the landscape and mood of Muizenberg, Kalk Bay, Fish Hoek and Kommetjie in her novels and poetry.

Recommended reading

Dowling, F. 2005. *What Poets Need*. Cape Town: Kwela.
Dowling, F. 2011. *Homemaking for the Down-at-Heart*. Cape Town: Kwela.
Dowling, F. 2015. *The Fetch*. Cape Town: Kwela.
Dowling, F. 2018. *Pretend You Don't Know Me*. Cape Town: Kwela.
Dowling, F. 2022. *The Man Who Loved Crocodile Tamers*. Cape Town: Kwela.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575249829>



IN CONVERSATION REWRITING THE FAMILY

Emeritus Professor Ingrid de Kok, University of Cape Town; Emeritus Professor Antjie Krog, University of the Western Cape

Wednesday 28 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Celebrated writers **Antjie Krog** and **Ingrid de Kok** have written extensively about family and the influence of family, in addition to meditating on many other cultural topics. In Krog's autobiographical novel, *Blood's Inner Rhyme*, she explores with rigour and humour her complex relationship with her mother, the Afrikaner writer Dot Serfontein. De Kok's new collection of poems, *Unleaving*, is partly an elegiac tribute to her late partner, Tony Morphet, and to her late brother, Kenneth de Kok. In this talk, the writers will engage with each other about the pleasures, difficulties and taboos involved in writing about family. They will also read from their recent work.

Recommended reading

De Kok, I. 2006. *Seasonal Fires: New and Selected Poems*. Johannesburg: Umuzi and New York: Seven Stories.
De Kok, I. 2024. *Unleaving*. Johannesburg: Fourthwall Books.
Krog, A. 2009. *Begging to be Black*. Cape Town: Random House Struik.
Krog, A. 2022. *Pillage*. Cape Town: Human & Rousseau.
Krog, A. 2025. *Blood's Inner Rhyme*. Cape Town: Penguin Books.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575250105>



IN CONVERSATION PARCEL BABY: ALIASES, APARTHEID, NEUROSURGERY

Dr Shafik Parker, neurosurgeon; Emeritus Professor Anwar Mall, University of Cape Town

Thursday 22 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

As a baby, Cassiem was uprooted from his home on the Indian subcontinent and stripped of his identity. He was shipped to South Africa with the name of Shafik Ahmed and forced into a life of servitude. Against a backdrop of racial prejudice and societal constraints as a youngster, he forged a path of resilience. With determination as sharp as the scalpel he would one day wield, Shafik Ahmed ascended from the humblest of schools on the Cape Flats to pioneer the complexities of neurosurgery. Yet fate dealt a cruel blow, abruptly ending his surgical career. His memoir, *Parcel Baby*, peels back the layers of mystery and deception to reveal the extraordinary life of a man who transformed adversity into triumph. Having built a world from nothing, Shafik Parker's legacy extends far beyond his personal triumph. His heart, as boundless as his ambition, is dedicated to inspiring others with hope and compassion.

Dr Shafik Parker will be in conversation with Professor Anwar Mall.

Recommended reading

Parker, S. 2025. *Parcel Baby*. Cape Town: iRon Publishers.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575250342>



ORAL HISTORIAN OR VULTURE? DOCUMENTING SOUTH AFRICAN JAZZ LEGENDS AFTER THEY'VE LEFT US

Nigel Vermaas, broadcaster, playwright, director, documentary maker

Thursday 22 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Nigel Vermaas has made many radio documentaries and features for SAfm and Bush Radio which pay tribute to South African jazz musicians. This lecture will advocate for the essential need for a properly curated sound archive, while revealing Nigel's approach to documentary-making, as well as some of the challenges.

Sadly, three luminaries in the jazz world passed away in 2025 – Rashid Lombard, Louis Moholo-Moholo and Feya Faku. Nigel will share priceless clips from documentaries he made paying tribute to these musicians and others, such as Robbie Jansen, Basil Moses, Zim Ngqawana, Miriam Makeba, the Ngcukana Brothers (Ezra and Duke), Erika Lundi, Hotep Idris Galeta, Mac McKenzie, Sathima Bea Benjamin, Nico Carstens and Dave Leadbetter. You are invited to celebrate the lives of these South African jazz legends.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575250663>



GLOWFLY DANCE: LITERATURE AS CHANGEMAKER

Dr Jade Gibson, anthropologist, artist, writer

Friday 30 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Jade Gibson's debut novel, *Glowfly Dance*, is a powerful and haunting account of intimate partner violence as witnessed through the eyes of a young girl. The book was part of a major social change process in addressing domestic violence, including the #MeToo movement in 2017. Although autobiographical, *Glowfly Dance* was published as a novel but crosses memoir and fiction genres, loosely described as literary autofiction. Jade will speak about the personal experience of navigating the difficult terrain between subjectivity and objectivity; how a novel can be part of a process of bringing about social change; and the impact on her personal and professional life as a speaker and writer. The discussion will appeal to all those interested in the writing process, both memoir and fiction, and how personal stories can act as a catalyst for change.

Recommended reading

Gibson, J. 2015. *Glowfly Dance*. Cape Town: Penguin Random House.

<https://thisisafrica.me/arts-and-culture/writing-glowfly-dance/>

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?mid=1575250931>



CANCELLED

COPY EDITING AND PROOFREADING: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? WHO PERFORMS THEM?

John Linnegar, copy editor, proofreader, trainer

Wednesday 28 January ■ 1.00 pm

This lecture is **FREE** but booking is essential to secure a place.

Are you an about-to-be author of a book, an article or a chapter? Or relatively new to publishing? Or simply curious about the process of refining a text in preparation for its publication? Then this lecture could be just the ticket for you.

Why do authors' words need to undergo both copy editing and proofreading? And what do these interventions entail? Corrections to grammar, punctuation and spelling errors? And what about matters of fact and of inconsistency within and between sections or chapters?

During this session, the mysteries and misunderstandings about these two crafts – aimed as they are at improving writers' words and even saving their reputations – will certainly be dispelled. The way in which this will be done is to share a number of documents with the audience: raw, unedited texts, their copy-edited product, and the final proofread versions of the typeset or laid-out text as pages of the book or the article.

Essentially, there are some fundamental differences between these two crafts that we generally, and authors in particular, need to be aware of. First, there's the level or depth of engagement with the text; second, the time taken to deliver on their briefs differs; third, the medium in which these activities are performed differs; fourth, the nature of the errors detected and corrected are somewhat different; and finally, there's the level of engagement with the author regarding matters that the copy editor or the proofreader is unable to resolve.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575251239>



CELEBRATING THE BEST OF OPERA UCT

UCT opera singers under the direction of Professor Jeremy Silver, South African College of Music, University of Cape Town

Wednesday 21 January ■ 7.30 pm ■ COURSE FEES R250; Staff and students R200

VENUE Baxter Theatre Concert Hall

Join us for a sparkling gala of opera presented by the Director of Opera UCT, Professor Jeremy Silver. Featuring gifted opera students and a small instrumental ensemble, the evening will showcase captivating excerpts from a wide-ranging repertoire, including works by Mozart, Verdi and Puccini. Celebrate the power and beauty of opera in a festive evening that promises a feast of musical excellence.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575283171>



JAZZ LEGENDS AND THEIR MUSIC

Ramon Alexander, pianist and composer, and the Ramon Alexander Trio

Monday 26 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R250; Staff and students R200

VENUE Baxter Theatre Concert Hall

In this lecture-performance Ramon Alexander will explore themes that inspire his music – musicians and music from the Cape, his personal relationships with legendary Cape jazz figures such as Robbie Jansen, Ibrahim Khalil Shihab and Mac McKenzie, and, finally, his personal identity and imagination.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575283942>



MUSIC AND THE SENSUALITY OF HARMONY (LECTURE-RECITAL)

Grant McLachlan, lecturer, South African College of Music, University of Cape Town

Wednesday 28 January ■ 7.30 pm ■ COURSE FEES R250; Staff and students R200

VENUE Baxter Theatre Concert Hall

In his lecture-performances at Summer School over the last few years, composer Grant McLachlan has earned a reputation for turning the conventional history of music on its head and encouraging audiences to experience concert-going in new and exciting ways, as will be done in this lecture-recital.

He will present an evening of music showing the seductiveness of harmony over the centuries. A small vocal ensemble of Cape Town's finest singers will perform music from the Middle Ages to the Baroque period, and in the twentieth century from jazz to Debussy, Ravel and Poulenc. We discover how the adventurous harmonic experiments in the twentieth century were a pleasure to be savoured, and how harmony can evoke emotions and stimulate the senses more than any other human activity.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575284241>



TO LIFE, WITH LOVE

John Maytham, presenter, actor; Mike van Graan, playwright

Tuesday 20 January ■ 7.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R150; Staff and students R100

John Maytham commissioned multiple award-winning playwright Mike van Graan to write him a one-person play with a blank canvas regarding themes. Inspired by Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal* and drawing on Helena Dolny's book, *Before Ever After*, Mike developed *To Life, With Love*, a poetic piece featuring Thomas Michael Faulkner. Thomas has experienced love, professional success, personal loss and social affirmation. Then, in his sixties, Thomas is diagnosed with a dread disease. There is a great chance of recovery, but Thomas is confronted by his mortality. With many good years ahead, Thomas makes choices about how he will live.

Mike van Graan will be available after the performance to answer questions.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/Performance.aspx?itemid=1575285018>



MARIA CALLAS: PRIMA DONNA

Mario Gaglione, director, choreographer; Monika Cristina, Chloé Blair, Gabriella Ghiaconi, Ivan Domiciano, Bruno Miranda: dancers

Friday 30 January ■ 7.30 pm ■ COURSE FEES R200; Staff and students R150

VENUE Baxter Theatre Concert Hall

Divine, enchanting and tragically human, Maria Callas remains one of the most captivating figures in opera history. This intimate sixty-five minute ballet, choreographed and directed by **Mario Gaglione**, with a cast of five dancers, brings her extraordinary life to the stage, tracing the brilliance and vulnerability of a woman who redefined opera and artistry.

Blending the physical poetry of dance with rare video interviews with Callas herself, the production creates a powerful dialogue between past and present, the icon and the individual. Through sweeping choreography and multimedia design, we witness her meteoric rise, her moments of solitude, and the inner conflicts that shaped her relentless pursuit of perfection.

More than a biography, the ballet offers a meditation on artistry, love, sacrifice and the cost of greatness. With a tone both deeply human and transcendent, it allows audiences to experience Callas not only as the voice of the twentieth century, but as a woman whose passion and fragility remain timeless. Unique in form yet rooted in classicism, this production invites us to step closer to the mystery of Maria Callas, her triumphs, her heartbreaks and her enduring spirit that continues to inspire.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1576630955>



Current Affairs, History, Philosophy, Politics & Economics



An allied correspondent stands in the rubble of the atomic bomb blast in Hiroshima, Japan. The building in the background is the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall, currently preserved as the Atomic Bomb Dome.
Acknowledgement: Stanley Troutman/ AP Photo, September 1945

THE 1930s: THE DECADE THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Chris Danziger, tutor, Continuing Education Department, Oxford University, United Kingdom

Monday 19–Friday 23 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R575; Staff and students R290

The 1930s was the transformational decade of the twentieth century. It gave us the defining images of depression, unemployment, fascism, international communism and militarism, leading to genocide and nuclear war. It started with the financial collapse triggered by the Wall Street crash and ended with the political collapse of the Second World War. No decade before or since has subjected the world to such stress. All the things that were taken for granted were uprooted and torn to pieces. Unemployment, inequality and deprivation caused outrage and helplessness. Everywhere governments were at a loss as to how to deal with events. Extremist parties and unlikely coalitions were often the result. Everywhere there was a search for scapegoats. Churchill called the 1930s 'the gathering storm'; WH Auden called it 'a low dishonest decade'. It ended in the most destructive war ever fought, with morality lessons which are becoming increasingly ambiguous today.

Lecture titles

1. Wall Street crashes: the world trembles
2. Democracy discredited: Germany, Italy
3. International ideology on the march: Soviet Russia, the League of Nations
4. Dress rehearsals: Spain, China, Abyssinia
5. Armageddon: the war to end all wars

Recommended reading

Brendan, P. 2002. *The Dark Valley*. New York: Alfred Knopf.

Conquest, R. 1968. *The Great Terror*. London: MacMillan.

Evans, R. 2004. *The Coming of the Third Reich*. United Kingdom: Penguin Books.

Steinbeck, J. 1939. *The Grapes of Wrath*. New York: Viking Press.

Ziegler, P. 2017. *Between the Wars*. London: Quercus Publishing.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575285683>



HIROSHIMA: EIGHTY YEARS ON

Chris Danziger, tutor, Continuing Education Department, Oxford University, United Kingdom

Tuesday 27–Thursday 29 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

Eighty years ago, the world learned that the Japanese city of Hiroshima had been shattered by a weapon of unprecedented destructiveness. Eight days later the Japanese accepted the Allied terms of surrender. Was the news in fact as much of a surprise to the Japanese and the world as it seemed? All sides fighting in the Second World War, including the Japanese, had been racing to develop a nuclear-type bomb. Even so, it took a second bomb, dropped three days later on Nagasaki, to convince the Japanese to surrender. On the other hand, what was it that persuaded the Americans to bring the war to a close by taking risks with such incalculable effects on human life – effects of which they were only vaguely aware? It is understandable only in the context of the literally suicidal determination of the Japanese not to yield an inch of conquered territory, and the four-year-old war which was still raging in the Pacific four months after the war in Europe ended. Weapons of such destructiveness have never been used again, but the world is still adjusting to the aftermath of the explosion.

Lecture titles

1. The Empire of the Rising Sun
2. Two Pacific superpowers at war
3. The ultimate deterrent and its legacy

Recommended reading

Bird, K and Sherwin, M. 2005. *Robert Oppenheimer: American Prometheus*. New York: Alfred Knopf.
Hoyt, E. 1986. *Japan's War: The Great Pacific Conflict*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
Rhodes, R. 1986. *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
Tolland, J. 1970. *The Rising Sun*. New York: Random House.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575286206>



TRADE WINDS: THE COSMOPOLITAN SWAHILI WORLD

Professor Anthony Gorton, historian, France

Monday 19–Tuesday 20 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

The Swahili world stretches 3 000 kilometres along the African coast from Somalia to Mozambique. For two thousand years the peoples of the East African coast have interacted with Indian Ocean trade networks, creating the dynamic Swahili world. This course will introduce this cosmopolitan culture through written and material evidence from antiquity to the twentieth century.

The *Periplus Maris Erythraei*, a first century CE guide for merchants trading in the Indian Ocean, is the earliest written record of the coast. The North African scholar and traveller, Ibn Battuta, left a famous report of the coast in the early fourteenth century. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries European views appear in the writings of Portuguese sailors and adventurers. The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw the region largely dominated by Omani rulers based in Zanzibar. By the late nineteenth century, Omani rule had been replaced by British and German imperial control. Independence from colonial rule came in the 1960s.

Lecture titles

1. Africa, the Swahili world and the Indian Ocean from ancient times to 1840
2. A world transformed: the Swahili world from the mid-nineteenth century to independence

Recommended reading

Cartwright, M. 2021. The Portuguese in East Africa. *World History Encyclopedia*.

<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/1798/the-portuguese-in-east-africa/>

Hazell, A. 2012. *The Last Slave Market*. London: Constable & Robinson.

Ruete, E. 2009. *Memoirs of an Arabian Princess from Zanzibar*. New York: Dover Publications.

Wynne-Jones, S and LaViolette, A (eds). 2018. *The Swahili World*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Recommended viewing

Badawi, Z. 2019. Coast and conquest. (History of Africa with Zeinab Badawi 12), BBC documentary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hKeMgH6A34&list=PLajyiGz4JeyPq2IpEt2skZRhQsAspIQCp&index=12>

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575291783>



UNDERSTANDING AFRICA–CHINA RELATIONS

Dr Mandira Bagwandeen, lecturer, Department of Political Science, Stellenbosch University

Monday 19–Wednesday 21 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

This course explores the significant and evolving relationship between Africa and China in the twenty-first century. It begins by examining the development of political ties, tracing the history from China's support for African liberation movements during the Cold War to the economic dimensions of this relationship, including trade, investment and infrastructure development projects. Finally, it looks at China's increasing security presence on the African continent. This course will make it possible for participants to contextualise the historical foundations and motivations behind these ties, critically assess the advantages and disadvantages of China's engagement in Africa, and consider the future of Africa–China relations within the context of a shifting global order.

Lecture titles

1. The political dimension of the Africa–China relationship
2. Understanding Africa–China economic ties
3. China's security footprint in Africa

Recommended reading

Anam, P and Ryder, H. 2024. Reimagining FOCAC Going Forwards: An African Assessment of Needs, Demands and Opportunities for FOCAC 2021 and Beyond. *Development Reimagined*, 4, pp. 1–56.

Bagwandeen, M. 2024. Developing a Common African Approach to China in a Divided World. Africa Report 44. Institute for Security Studies.

Benabdallah, L. 2016. China's Peace and Security Strategies in Africa: Building Capacity is Building Peace. *African Studies Quarterly*, 16(3–4), pp. 17–34.

Carmody, P. 2021. Going Viral? The Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sino-African Relations. *African Studies Quarterly*, 20(3), pp. 1–23.

Chiyemura, F, Gambino, E and Zajontz, T. 2022. Infrastructure and the Politics of African State Agency: Shaping the Belt and Road Initiative in East Africa. *Chinese Political Science Review*, 8(1), pp. 105–131.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575297771>



HAS DEMOCRACY RUN ITS COURSE?

Judge Dennis Davis, legal academic, jurist and retired judge

Thursday 22–Friday 23 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

When South Africa embraced constitutional democracy by introducing the 1996 Constitution, it did so in a context of a global embrace of the constitutional model. Thirty years after the rise of Modi, Erdogan and Trump – to name a few – a different authoritarian picture is revealed.

These lectures will first examine this turn away from constitutional democracy before reflecting on its prospects in South Africa, where in the last election 27% of voters supported anti-constitutional parties.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575298559>



UNLOCKING SOUTH AFRICA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

Dr Iraj Abedian, *economist, businessman*

Monday 19 January ■ 7.00–8.30 pm ■ COURSE FEES R110; Staff and students R58

■ There will be a reception on Monday 19 January at 6.00 pm before the lecture.

NOTE: This two-lecture course has now been condensed into a one and a half hour lecture.

This lecture aims, firstly, to highlight the country's considerable potential for economic and investment opportunities and, secondly, to offer high-level pathways for realising this potential. The analysis will focus on the need for, and the requisites of, policy course-correction, which is urgently needed for the nation's welfare and prosperity.

Lecture titles

1. Investment potential
2. Policy course-correction

Recommended reading

Abedian, I. 2025. *Reviving South Africa's Economic Growth: A Proposed Action Plan for an Integrated Course-Corrective Shock to Shift the Country's Growth Trajectory*. Unpublished.

Sanei, J and Abedian, I. 2020. *Future Next: Re-Imagining Our World and Conquering Uncertainty*. Cape Town: Mercury, Burnet Media.

South African National Treasury. 2019. Economic Transformation, Inclusive Growth, and Competitiveness: Towards an Economic Strategy for South Africa. https://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2019/towards%20an%20economic%20strategy%20for%20sa.pdf

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575298660>



DEVELOPING SOUTH AFRICA'S RURAL AREAS

Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist, Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa

Friday 23 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

The rural economy should not be forgotten in South Africa's economic growth agenda, where there tends to be a strong urban bias in policy discussions. The rural areas are still a significant segment of society and the economy, though 68% of the population now lives in urban areas.

Apart from the rural areas' reliance on remittances and social transfer payments, the outstanding characteristic of the rural economy is its dependence on a few key industries, all of which are typically resource-based, such as agriculture, mining, fishing, tourism and forestry.

With rising unemployment and low economic activity, policymakers are searching for areas of growth and job creation. For many rural areas, agriculture and tourism are the only industries that still have the potential to generate livelihoods and employment. However, for these industries to perform better, we must address the various infrastructure and governance constraints that have limited their development and growth, thus preventing them from achieving their full potential. These industries have more than doubled in size since 1994, but are not yet at capacity.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575299753>



IN CONVERSATION

BUILDING A CAPABLE INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS: A CASE STUDY OF THE INTELLIGENCE OPERATION AGAINST PAGAD

David Africa, researcher; Hermione Cronjé, advocate

Wednesday 28 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

The discussion addresses the covert intelligence operation against the vigilante-cum-terrorist organisation, Pagad, and deals with the lessons from that experience. How can this experience, and the lessons thereof, lay the basis for a new and context-relevant intelligence praxis? As South Africa confronts a complex and interrelated set of security crises (a polycrisis?), the country requires new approaches to policing and intelligence. The operation detailed in the book *Lives on the Line* posits such an approach.

David Africa will be in conversation with Hermione Cronjé.

Recommended reading

Africa, D. 2025. *Lives on the Line*. Johannesburg: African Perspectives

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575300550>



CANCELLED

ALONG KAROO ROADS: FACES, PLACES AND ROADSIDE ENCOUNTERS

Chris Marais and Julianne du Toit, photojournalists and independent publishers

Thursday 29 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

The hundred and one towns, villages and inhabited railway sidings of the Karoo make for a vast tapestry of interesting people, impressive landscapes, and a very deep set of historical and cultural layers. The lecturers describe the Karoo as a whisper from the past, a drink at a backyard bar in the middle of nowhere, an adventure with an ostrich, a night under the stars. The Karoo's people are its heartbeat. From traditional healers to modern farmers to creative eccentrics who fled city life, the region is home to a cast of characters who embody resilience, spirit and a wry sense of humour. This lecture will take participants on a journey through the Karoo and introduce them to its people.

Recommended reading

Marais, C and Du Toit, J. 2011. *Karoo Keepsakes I and II*. South Africa: MLM Publishers.

Marais, C and Du Toit, J. 2016. *Road Tripper: Eastern Cape Karoo*. South Africa: MLM Publishers.

Marais, C and Du Toit, J. 2018. *Moving to the Platteland: Life in Small Town South Africa*. South Africa: MLM Publishers.

Marais, C and Du Toit, J. 2020. *Karoo Roads: Tales from South Africa's Heartland, I–IV*. South Africa: MLM Publishers.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575300827>



A TUG OF MEMORY: TWENTY-ONE YEARS IN THE KAROO

Chris Marais and Julianne du Toit, *photojournalists and independent publishers*

Friday 30 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

In their twenty-one years of criss-crossing the Karoo in all seasons, in times of drought and flood, the lecturers have met and written about hundreds of people living there. In their writing they often bring long-dead characters, their achievements and adventures, back to life. This lecture is a nostalgic journey into the Karoo space and story archives, as well as a celebration of their dedication to a region that many once thought was dry, empty and devoid of any interesting features. Today, of course, the word 'Karoo' evokes feelings of warmth, adventure and a welcome escape from the pressures of urban life.

Recommended reading

Marais, C and Du Toit, J. 2011. *Karoo Keepsakes I and II*. South Africa: MLM Publishers.

Marais, C and Du Toit, J. 2016. *Road Tripper: Eastern Cape Karoo*. South Africa: MLM Publishers.

Marais, C and Du Toit, J. 2018. *Moving to the Platteland: Life in Small Town South Africa*. South Africa: MLM Publishers.

Marais, C and Du Toit, J. 2020. *Karoo Roads: Tales from South Africa's Heartland, I–IV*. South Africa: MLM Publishers.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575301950>



SOUTH AFRICA IN 2026: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Ann Bernstein, Executive Director, Centre For Development and Enterprise

Thursday 29 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

In a country in crisis on so many fronts, a series of bold catalytic actions is required from the government of national unity (GNU). *Agenda 2024: Priorities for South Africa's New Government* offers a policy agenda that is substantially different from what the country has seen over the past sixteen years. It identifies nine catalytic actions within five carefully selected areas: fixing the state; freeing up markets and competition to enhance development; building a new approach to mass inclusion; tackling the fiscal crisis; and strengthening the rule of law.

For the past thirty years the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) has been generating innovative policy recommendations to address South Africa's core development challenges: economic growth, employment, and democratic consolidation. By examining South African and international experience and consulting widely, CDE formulates evidence-based policy proposals with a special focus on the role of business and markets.

Recommended reading

Bernstein, A. 2010. *The Case for Business in Developing Economies*. London: Penguin.

AGENDA 2024: PRIORITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S NEW GOVERNMENT.

Action One: Reorganise the Presidency and the Cabinet, 12 June 2024.

Action Two: Appoint the right people in mission critical public sector jobs, 19 June 2024.

Action Three: Fix the fiscal crisis, 25 July 2024.

Action Four: How to appoint a strong judiciary, 3 September 2024.

Action Five: Energise the NPA, 26 September 2024.

Action Six: Solve the SOE challenge, 15 October 2024.

Action Seven: Rethink growth, jobs and the DTIC, 20 November 2024.

Action Eight: Let the private sector drive small business development, 17 February 2025.

Action Nine: Use the private sector to turbocharge the SEZ programme, 2 April 2025.

Short reports

Dealing with the Budget Crisis: CDE recommendations, 27 February 2025.

CDE Submission | Transformation Fund: Right Goal, Wrong Approach, 28 May 2025.

Appointing the next head of the NPA, 10 June 2025.

For more information on CDE and its publications, please visit cde.org.za.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575305344>



NAVIGATING GEOPOLITICAL COMPLEXITY: HOW DID SOUTH AFRICA'S G20 STACK UP?

Emeritus Associate Professor Richard Calland, University of Cape Town; Director, University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, Africa Programme, United Kingdom

Friday 30 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

In 2025 South Africa assumed the presidency of the G20 – the first on African soil – at a pivotal moment for both the global economy and the future of multilateralism, and at a time of ‘poly-crisis’. In this timely lecture, following the Leaders’ Summit in late November 2025, South Africa’s leadership of the G20 will be critically assessed – exploring the substantive policy outcomes achieved, from climate finance and debt reform to digital inclusion and development cooperation. The lecture will also reflect on how South Africa navigated complex geopolitical tensions to protect and strengthen the multilateral process, offering fresh insights into the role of middle powers in shaping global governance.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575306885>



NAVIGATING THE TRUMP GLOBAL ERA

Professor William Gumede, School of Governance, University of the Western Cape

Monday 19 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

President Donald Trump, through his unleashing of sweeping global tariffs, his slashing of aid to developing countries and funding to global multilateral organisations, has caused a great disruption of global institutions, markets, trade and multilateralism. The lecture will look at South Africa's role in the new Trump global era. It will cover South Africa's participation in the BRICS Plus alliance, the country's role as part of the Africa Free Trade Area, and the country's engagements with other key emerging markets and industrial powers.

Recommended reading

Gumede, W. 2014. *South Africa and the BRICS Alliance*. Transnational Institute, Amsterdam.

Gumede, W. 2015. Modifying China-South Africa Trade. *World Commerce Review*, 9(2).

<https://www.tni.org/en/publication/south-africa-and-the-brics-alliance>

Gumede, W. 2017. European Partnership Agreements: Good for Africa? *World Commerce Review*, 11(3), pp. 56–58.

Gumede, W. 2022. Democratising the United Nations. Occasional Paper, Inclusive Society Institute, Cape Town. <https://www.inclusivesociety.org.za/post/democratising-the-united-nations>

Gumede, W. 2022. The Russia-Ukraine War: Impact on South Africa, Fellow BRICS Members and Africa. Occasional Paper, Inclusive Society Institute, Cape Town. <https://www.inclusivesociety.org.za/>

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575307287>



IN CONVERSATION

HUMANBALL: PERFORMANCE THROUGH CONNECTION

Tom Dawson-Squibb, high performance coach; Nic Rosslee, writer and entrepreneur

Wednesday 21 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

This conversation explores how extraordinary performance is achieved when people connect around a shared purpose. Drawing on experiences with teams such as the Ikey Tigers, the Stormers and the Proteas, Tom and Nic will show how the Humanball approach can be impactful across all areas of your life. As the book suggests, 'If you make people feel special, they will behave in a way that is special.'

Recommended reading

Dawson-Squibb, T and Rosslee, N. 2025. *Humanball: A Leadership Journey in South African Rugby*. Cape Town: Publicans.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575308433>



REFLECTIONS ON COALITION GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL DIALOGUE: THIRTY YEARS AGO AND NOW

Roelf Meyer, advisor

Wednesday 21 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

South Africa has proved to be a working democracy. This is the case through all sectors of society: government, politics, business, civil society, organised labour. However, the political environment has become more fluid and less predictable. Coalition government seems to be the order of the indefinite future. Reflections on the options and possible scenarios for the period leading up to the next general election have already started. These speculations could either be enhanced through the national dialogue, or not.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575318299>



CHALLENGES IN LAND REFORM: A JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVE

Judge Susannah Cowen, Gauteng High Court and Land Court

Monday 26 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

South Africa's spatial geography is still markedly shaped by our colonial and apartheid history, both in urban and rural areas. Section 25 of the Constitution contemplates a series of legislative interventions to remedy the injustices of the past relating to restitution for past racially discriminatory laws and practices, securing insecure tenure and facilitating equitable access to land. The legislature has recently recognised that the pace of change has been too slow and must be accelerated, culminating in the Land Court Act 2023.

This lecture will explore some of the challenges in land reform from a judicial perspective. It will do so by seeking to understand common themes and patterns in litigation that come to the Land Court in these areas. For example, in recent years there has been a high prevalence of eviction cases, emanating especially from the Western Cape, and cases concerning removal of cattle from farms. Conversely there is a low prevalence of cases dealing with restitution and awards of land to labour tenants. What do these, and other patterns, say about the state of land reform in South Africa and the role courts play under the Constitution? Consideration will be given to the opportunities now presented by the new Land Court Act to achieve the transformative vision of the Constitution, while balancing competing rights and interests.

Recommended reading

Motlanthe Report: High Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change: Chapter 3.

Mwelase v Director-General for the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development (2009) ZACC 30 (accessible on SAFLII).

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/Performance.aspx?itemid=1575326387>



THE SHADOW STATE

Jeff Wicks, journalist

Friday 23 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

On 23 August 2021, Babita Deokaran – a hardworking single mother and chief accountant at the Gauteng Department of Health – was shot down outside her home. The *izinkabi* paid to kill her were caught, but the question remained: Who ordered her murder, and why?

Investigative journalist Jeff Wicks set out to find the answer. This quest would profoundly change – even endanger – his life, as he bravely followed the leads Babita had left behind. Leads that the Hawks, who were officially investigating her assassination, had failed to act on.

In *The Shadow State* Wicks uncovers a tangled web of crooked officials, ANC politicians, and extraction syndicates – including that of the notorious ‘Cat’ Matlala – siphoning away billions meant for patients in Gauteng’s public hospitals.

An explosive, fast-paced investigation into greed and state capture, this book is also a moving tribute to the courage of one woman who, when confronted by powerful wrongdoers, refused to keep quiet.

Recommended reading

Wicks, J. 2025. *The Shadow State: Why Babita Deokaran had to die*. Cape Town: Tafelberg.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/performance.aspx?itemid=1575862768>



VINES, WINES AND POLITICAL DESIGNS

Michael Fridjhon, wine judge; visiting professor of wine business, Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town

Tuesday 27 January ■ 7.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

■ There will be a reception at 6.00 pm before the lecture.

This lecture covers the evolution of the modern Cape wine industry since the 1970s. In the mid-twentieth century South Africa mainly produced fortified wines such as port and sherry, very little still dry wine, and vast quantities of brandy. Today the country enjoys an enviable reputation as a source of some of the most exciting wines produced anywhere on the planet. We will track the socio-political forces, technological advancements, and key personalities which all helped to shape the process. The lecture will be illustrated using historical data, anecdotal information and personal experience.

Recommended reading

Fridjhon, M. 1992. *The Penguin Book of South African Wine*. South Africa: Penguin.
Fridjhon, M and Murray, A. 1986. *Conspiracy of Giants*. Johannesburg: Divaris Stein Publishers.
James, T. 2013. *Wines of the New South Africa*. California: University of California Press.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575364818>



SOUTH AFRICAN TRAPPIST MISSIONS: TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

Nicki von der Heyde, writer, freelance journalist

Friday 23 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

There was an unprecedented explosion of missionary activity in Natal during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It was sparked by the charisma and passion of Trappist Father Francis Pfanner, but would have gone nowhere without the untaught genius of Brother Nivard Streicher, who constructed not only churches but monasteries, irrigation schemes, mills, bridges and roads, as well as public buildings for the colonial government, despite not having any formal training in architecture, engineering or construction.

This lecture will examine the political situation of the time and why the Trappists – a silent order and incompatible with mission work – came to Natal. It focuses on Father Francis Pfanner, his controversial reforms and eventual suspension, and on Brother Nivard Streicher's background, genius, friendship with Pfanner and early death. This fascinating story, based on the lives of two exceptional men, is a forgotten interlude in the history of Natal.

Recommended reading

Balling, A. 2003. *Der Braune Abt von Mariannhill*. Wurzburg: Missionsverlag Mariannhill.
Gamble, H. 1882. *Mariannhill: A Century of Prayer and Work*. Pinetown: Mariannhill Mission Press.
Von der Heyde, N. 2018. *Triumph and Tragedy: Trappist Missions in South Africa*. Pinetown: Mariannhill Mission Press.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575365429>



THE BATTLE OF SPIOENKOP: PERSONALITIES AND OUTCOMES

Nicki von der Heyde, writer, freelance journalist

Saturday 24 January ■ 10.00 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

The Battle of Spioenkop was the seminal Boer War battle where, at one stage, both armies retreated, believing the other side had won. Was it a brilliant Boer victory or an abysmal British defeat?

The course of the battle was shaped by leadership styles, personality clashes and complicated terrain. The outcome was decided by skilful use of long-ranging artillery. This lecture will discuss the battle and the contrast between the two armies. There is a focus on the British generals of Natal: General Sir Redvers Buller, his army history, his character and his foibles; General Sir Charles Warren's unwelcome arrival; and the controversial role played by Lord Donald Cochrane, the 12th Earl of Dundonald. It will also examine the roles played by Gandhi and Churchill.

Recommended reading

Coetzer, O. 1966. *The Road to Infamy*. Rivonia: Waterman Publications.

Griffith, K. 1974. *Thank God We Kept the Flag Flying*. London: Hutchinson and Co.

Kruger, R. 1967. *Good-bye Dolly Gray*. London: Pan Books.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575365784>



THE CRIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN': EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA'S EVOLVING CRIMINAL LANDSCAPE

Caryn Dolley, journalist, author

Monday 19 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Organised crime is evolving along with technology. In South Africa and elsewhere, social media is impacting lawbreaking, critical police investigations and court cases. There are already telltale signs of local gangs on TikTok. Disinformation is rife on X. And when it comes to communication, syndicates use secret messaging platforms designed to support their deceit. Traffickers and poachers, meanwhile, have expanded their focus from drugs, guns, humans and mammals, and are now even targeting ants. From abusing online systems to ravaging ecosystems, criminals are adapting.

Recommended reading

Dolley, C. 2019. *The Enforcers: Inside Cape Town's Deadly Nightclub Battles*. Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

Dolley, C. 2021. *To the Wolves: How Traitor Cops Crafted South Africa's Underworld*. Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

Dolley, C. 2022. *Clash of the Cartels: Unmasking the Global Drug Kingpins Stalking South Africa*. Cape Town: Maverick451.

Dolley, C. 2024. *Man Alone: Mandela's Top Cop – Exposing South Africa's Ceaseless Sabotage*. Cape Town: Maverick451.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575366075>



DESMOND TUTU: PROPHET TO POWER, PASTOR TO THE PEOPLE, HEALER OF A NATION

Reverend Professor Peter Storey, former Presiding Bishop, Methodist Church of SA; President, South African Council of Churches; Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Duke University Divinity School, United States of America

Monday 19 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Tutu is remembered by most today as the ebullient, smiling Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, but he was so much more: as General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches between 1978 and 1985 he mobilised and led its powerful witness against the apartheid regime. At a time when Mandela and others were in prison or exile, Tutu stood in the gap, becoming our most prominent voice in the struggle for liberation. Hated by most whites and revered by most blacks, he was hauled before Botha's tribunal at home but honoured internationally with a Nobel Peace Prize. In 1989 he led the first of the great marches around the nation, demonstrating that the momentum toward freedom was unstoppable. After liberation in 1994, his compassionate and grace-filled handling of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission revealed to both black and white South Africans his gifts as a healer and unifier. Right until his death, strife-torn nations around the world sought his presence and counsel.

This lecture by a friend and close associate in some of the most turbulent years of struggle will remind us of critical moments in Desmond Tutu's life and explore the spiritual roots of his courageous witness.

Recommended reading

Alan, J. 2006. *Rabble-rouser for Peace: The Authorised Biography of Desmond Tutu*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Battle, M. 2021. *Desmond Tutu: A Spiritual Biography of South Africa's Confessor*. Westminster: John Knox Press.

Tutu, D. 1982. *The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness: A Collection of his Most Recent Statements in the Struggle For Justice in South Africa*. London: Mowbray.

Tutu, D. 1999. *No Future Without Forgiveness*. New York: Doubleday.

Vaughan, D. 2022. *This One Thing: Journeying with Tutu*. Stellenbosch: SUNLit.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575383054>



CECIL JOHN RHODES IN LOVE

Professor Jonny Steinberg, *Council on African Studies, Yale University, United States of America; author, scholar*

Wednesday 28 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

This lecture will focus on the personal, political and commercial life of Cecil Rhodes, touching on his place in Britain's imperial project, his homosexuality and his relationships with the men close to him. It will also focus on how he acquired wealth, and his legacy.

Recommended reading

Maylam, P. 2005. *The Cult of Rhodes: Remembering an Imperialist in Africa*. Johannesburg: David Philip Publishers.

Robert, R. 1998. *The Founder: Cecil Rhodes and the Pursuit of Power*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575383582>



CLICKBAIT, CHAOS AND CREDIBILITY: HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

Paula Slier, media trainer, war correspondent; CEO, Newsbound Media International and Newsbound Academy

Thursday 22 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

What if everything you believed about a story was wrong? In a world where headlines scream louder than facts and viral posts outrun the truth, knowing how to spot fake news is not a luxury – it is essential.

In this honest and eye-opening lecture Paula Slier unpacks the chaos of today's information landscape. From doctored images to AI-generated lies, she explores how misinformation is created, why it spreads so easily, and what it means for how we see the world.

This lecture won't just teach you how to spot fake news – it will help you understand the systems behind it. With real examples and practical takeaways, you will begin to sharpen your media literacy skills and learn how to read more critically, question more confidently, and resist the emotional pull of false narratives.

Whether you are a news junkie or not, or simply overwhelmed by the digital noise, this lecture will give you a fresh lens through which to view the chaos – and the credibility – around you.

Recommended reading

Burley, R. 2020. *Bad News: What the Headlines Don't Tell Us*. London: Biteback Publishing.

Council of Europe. 2017. *Fake News and the Manipulation of Public Opinion*.

Herman, ES and Chomsky, N. 1998. *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*. New York: Pantheon Books.

Wineberg, S and McGrew, S. 2017. *Lateral Reading: Reading Less and Learning More When Evaluating Digital Information*. Stanford: Stanford History Education Group.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575430679>



SAND, SWEAT AND SATELLITE PHONES: REPORTING WAR IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Paula Slier, media trainer, war correspondent; CEO, Newsound Media International and Newsound Academy

Friday 23 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

What does it mean to risk your life for a story – and what happens when the cameras stop rolling? In this honest and revealing lecture Paula Slier shares first-hand insights from years of reporting on some of the world's most volatile conflicts – including Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Russia and Ukraine. With a blend of frontline footage and deeply personal stories, she peels back the layers of modern war reporting: the adrenaline rush, the ethical tightropes, the heartbreak and the fleeting moments of hope.

This is a behind-the-scenes journey into a world where truth is contested, danger is constant, and the biggest battles often happen far from the battlefield.

Recommended reading

CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. 2021. *Safety Handbook for Women Journalists*.

Hedges, C. 2002. *The Seduction of Battle and the Perversion of War*. New York: PublicAffairs.

Monroy-Hernández, A et al. 2013. *The New War Correspondents: The Rise of Civic Media Curation in Urban Warfare*.

Reuters Institute. 2013. *Is There Anybody Out There? Crisis and Collaboration in Foreign Reporting*.

Proceedings of the 2013 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work, pp. 1443–1452.

Ricchiardi, S et al. 2009. *Disaster Coverage Guide*. International Centre for Journalists.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575433147>



THE AGE OF DECAY: AGEING, SHRINKING POPULATIONS AND THE DECLINE OF CIVILISATION

Shamil Ismail, *investment analyst*

Saturday 31 January ■ 10.00 am–12.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

This double lecture is a thought-provoking exploration of how demographic shifts – particularly ageing populations and declining birth rates – could unravel the very fabric of modern civilisation. We will discuss the social and economic implications, highlighting which countries could be most affected, and also look at the actions taken by some governments and how effective these actions have been.

Shamil Ismail argues that the real threat lies not just in fewer people, but in the fast-shrinking pool of essential workers – those who keep society functioning, from healthcare and agriculture to logistics and infrastructure. As these roles become harder to fill in developed countries, the consequences could be catastrophic: crumbling cities, disrupted supply chains and economic stagnation.

Recommended reading

Ismail, S. 2025. *The Age of Decay: How Aging and Shrinking Populations Could Usher in the Decline of Civilization*. Cape Town: Quickfox Publishing.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575433521>



THE AFRIKANER REBELLION 1914

Dr David Brock Katz, research fellow, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University

Thursday 29–Friday 30 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

The Anglo-Boer War left South Africa bitterly divided. Afrikaners had lost lives, land and their republics. Though the 1902 Treaty of Vereeniging ended hostilities, resentment endured. Alfred Milner's anglicisation policies (1902–1905) deepened tensions, though his exit and the 1906 granting of responsible government offered brief relief. The 1910 Union of South Africa, led by Louis Botha, was a fragile political compromise. Economic hardship plagued Afrikaners, nationalism surged under JBM Hertzog, and Botha and Smuts's harsh handling of the 1913–1914 labour unrest stoked anger. When South Africa invaded German South West Africa (GSWA) in 1914, rebellion became a flashpoint for long-festered grievances. The first lecture explores the rebellion's roots.

Britain's entry into World War I in August 1914 compelled South Africa to follow. Jan Smuts, eyeing territorial gains, launched an invasion of GSWA under the guise of neutralising German radio posts. Afrikaner nationalists saw an opportunity to restore their lost republics. Discontent coalesced around figures like Koos de la Rey, Christiaan Beyers, Jan Kemp, Christiaan de Wet and Manie Maritz. De la Rey's accidental death caused temporary hesitation, but with South African boots on GSWA soil, rebellion ignited. Even a hesitant Beyers took up arms. Botha led loyalist forces from Pretoria, using railways, mounted troops and early motor vehicles for rapid mobility. His use of Boer-style manoeuvre warfare and strategic amnesty offers broke rebel cohesion. Within two months, the uprising was suppressed. The second lecture examines how the South African government defeated the Afrikaner Rebellion.

Lecture titles

1. The Afrikaner Rebellion 1914: the build-up to rebellion
2. The Afrikaner Rebellion 1914: defeating the rebellion

Recommended reading

Anonymous. 2004. *The Union of South Africa and the Great War 1914–1918 Official History*. Nashville: The Battery Press.

Katz, DB. 2021. Sandfontein: An Operational Re-examination of the Battle, Contextualised within General J.C. Smuts' First Phase of the German South West African Campaign 1914. *Journal of African Military History*, 5(2), pp. 77–120.

Katz, DB. 2022. *General Jan Smuts and his First World War in Africa 1914–1917*. Johannesburg: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

Reitz, D. 2012. *Trekking on: In the Company of Brave Men*. Edinburgh: The House of Emslie.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575434956>



NAVIGATING RETIREMENT

Gareth Stead, trainer, coach, consultant; Kenny Meiring, financial advisor, financial wellness coach

Monday 19–Tuesday 20 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

This course will discuss the critical elements required to enjoy a healthy and fulfilling retirement. It focuses on the psycho-social and financial aspects – both equally important.

First the five myths of retirement will be examined, followed by a scan of the eight elements that make up a successful retirement and the four phases of retirement, and how to navigate them. Next is a focus on financial planning: how to determine the amount required to retire comfortably; why retirees run out of money and what can be done about it; how to structure retirement income for maximum tax efficiency; ways to simplify the inheritance process for heirs; and how to minimise estate duty.

The content will be as relevant to those approaching retirement as it will to those who are already retired.

Lecture titles

1. Successful retirement
2. Financial planning

Recommended reading

Anthony, M. 2020. *The New Retirementality*. New Jersey: Wiley Blackwell.

Bridges, B. 2020. *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes*. New York: Da Capo Lifelong Books.

Cameron, B and Fourie, W. 2018. *The Ultimate Guide to Retirement in South Africa*. Cape Town: Penguin Random House.

Donders, P. 2008. *Resilience*. South Africa: Expand Edition.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575435175>



THE LANGUAGE OF EMOJIS: FORENSIC AND LEGAL LINGUISTICS

Dr Zakeera Docrat, forensic and legal linguist and post-doctoral research fellow, Department of African Language Studies, University of the Western Cape

Friday 23 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

This lecture will discuss forensic and legal linguistics in relation to the analysis and interpretation of emojis that are used as evidence in courts. It will explain how forensic and legal linguists interpret emojis in legal settings. Practical examples to show how emojis are interpreted will be provided. The role of expert forensic and legal linguists will also be examined to show the importance of how language is used in courtrooms. Finally, the lecture will show participants how to use emojis in a way that will avoid potential disputes and criminal acts.

Recommended reading

Docrat, Z and Kaschula, RH. 2024. Approaches to Interpreting Emojis as Evidence in South African Courts: A Forensic Linguistic Perspective, *SAJAL* 44(2), pp. 71–88.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02572117.2024.2333147>

<https://mg.co.za/thought-leader/opinion/2025-01-23-meaning-behind-emojis-a-case-for-forensic-linguistics-analysis-in-courts/>

<https://theconversation.com/forensic-linguists-explore-how-emojis-can-be-used-as-evidence-in-court-133462>

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575437460>



MASTERING OTHERS' LANGUAGES: THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dr Tessa Dowling, *School of Languages and Literatures, University of Cape Town*

Friday 30 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

A light-hearted but thoughtful look at what happens when non-Black South Africans can speak even a few words of an African language – let alone when they become more fluent. A few language-learning tips will be given.

Recommended reading

Dowling, T. 2006. *African Voices: Speak Xhosa With Us*. Cape Town: African Voices.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/performance.aspx?itemid=1575862260>



FIX IT: SOLUTIONS TO FIXING SOUTH AFRICAN EDUCATION IN A POST-COVID ROAD MAP

David Wylde, retired principal, educationalist

Friday 23 January ■ 7.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

David Wylde explores his recent book, *Fix It: We Can Fix It Together*. His experience as an educator exposed him to the problems facing South African education. An internationally renowned educationalist, he believes that leaders, together with committed teams, can make a difference. His life's work serving both urban and rural, government and independent schools has enabled him to identify the challenges schools and communities face in our post-Covid world. David invites participants to join him in envisioning a future where innovative, meaningful actions are combined with kindness and caring to create change.

David Wylde's esteemed former pupil **Carel Nolte** will facilitate the discussion.

Recommended reading

Wylde, D. 2025. *Fix It: We Can Fix It Together*.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1576327521>



THE TRUTH ABOUT CAPE SLAVERY: CHALLENGING HISTORICAL DISTORTIONS

Patric Tariq Mellet, researcher, writer

Monday 26 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

In *The Truth About Cape Slavery* Patric Tariq Mellet argues that modern South Africa was established on the foundation of chattel slavery, as in the United States of America. According to Mellet, the existence of a benevolent and mild form of slavery at the Cape is a myth; slavery formed the cornerstone of infrastructure and economic development in South Africa. He claims that the system of indentured labour, as well as the migrant labour system, was nothing but a continuation of slavery in a new form. This then moved to become the cornerstone of the Cape's and the Boer Republics' agricultural economy. His book is a work of 'restorative memory', without which restorative justice is not possible.

Recommended reading

Mellet, PT. 2009. *Lenses of Cape Identity: Exploring Roots in South Africa*. Botswana: Dibanisa.

Mellet, PT. 2020. *The Lie of 1652: A Decolonised History of Land*. Cape Town: Tafelberg.

Mellet, PT. 2022. *Cleaner's Boy: A Resistance Road to a Liberated Life*. Cape Town: Tafelberg.

Mellet, PT. 2024. *The Truth about Cape Slavery*. Cape Town: Tafelberg.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575438680>



NARRATIVE CAPTURE: HOW DISINFORMATION BUILDS THE ARCHITECTURE OF OPPRESSION

Redi Tlhabi, lecturer, journalist

Friday 30 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

In collaboration with the Daily Maverick series of lectures.

This lecture will explore how information wars threaten democracy and the ideal of a shared humanity. Using recent case studies, Redi Tlhabi will expand on how individuals find themselves signing up for echo chambers that invariably shape their world and how they see others. She will critique the media's amplification of such divisive politics and its complicity in creating the marketplace of lies. She will then challenge the audience to reclaim their curiosity and reflect on the emotional, economic and political toll of living in a constant state of outrage and fear. The lecture will conclude with how the manipulation of truth, the monetisation of outrage and hate have influenced her journey as a journalist and commentator, leading her to an unequivocal rejection of neutrality. Journalism cannot be neutral in times of upheaval and polarisation caused by lies, prejudice and disinformation.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1576634238>



TRACKING THE TRIGGERS: INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA'S FIREARM CONTROVERSIES

Caryn Dolley, journalist, author

Tuesday 27 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

■ There will be a reception at 6.00 pm after the lecture.

 *This lecture is part of the Daily Maverick series of lectures.*

As public trust in policing wanes, more reliance may be placed on private security to ensure residents' safety. In mid-2025, the issue of private security firearms became a hot topic in South Africa when draft plans, aimed at tightening control of guns in the R50-billion industry, were announced. There are undoubtedly dodgy elements in private security, but it's the same with the police. There are highly publicised accusations about police officers smuggling firearms to criminals. This lecture discusses various cases in South Africa relating to guns – from lapses in oversight, to lawbreaking, and pushback to state proposals.

Recommended reading

Dolley, C. 2019. *The Enforcers: Inside Cape Town's Deadly Nightclub Battles*. Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

Dolley, C. 2021. *To the Wolves: How Traitor Cops Crafted South Africa's Underworld*. Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

Dolley, C. 2022. *Clash of the Cartels: Unmasking the Global Drug Kingpins Stalking South Africa*. Cape Town: Maverick451.

Dolley, C. 2024. *Man Alone: Mandela's Top Cop – Exposing South Africa's Ceaseless Sabotage*. Cape Town: Maverick451.

Shaw, M. 2021. *Give us More Guns: How South Africa's Gangs Were Armed*. Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575439185>



METRO MATTERS: LOCAL REPORTING AND THE 2026 ELECTIONS

Ferial Haffajee, Associate Editor, *Daily Maverick*

Tuesday 20 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

DM *This lecture is part of the Daily Maverick series of lectures.*

Award-winning journalist Ferial Haffajee reflects on the significance of Johannesburg and South Africa's metros as the country heads into the 2026 local elections. In this lecture she explores the challenges and opportunities of local reporting, the lessons it offers for democracy, and how the state of our cities mirrors the state of our nation.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/performance.aspx?itemid=1576633716>



STRAIGHT OUT OF PRETORIA: THE NEWS FRESHLY SQUEEZED

Marianne Thamm, *Associate Editor, Daily Maverick*

Monday 26 January ■ 7.30 pm ■ COURSE FEES R200; Staff and students R150

VENUE Baxter Theatre Concert Hall

 *This performance is part of the Daily Maverick series of lectures.*

Every day, when the sun gently peeks over the horizon, we wake up to a South Africa that sometimes feels like a chapter in a tragi-comic graphic novel.

There's a man in Gauteng drilling for water right into the Gautrain tunnel. There's a minister announcing that we should be calm, that the country is 'stable and safe' despite a coup, violence, crime and terrorism. Nothing to see here ... just walk on.

Pretoria-born investigative journalist Marianne Thamm is back on stage with a new piece of 'performance journalism', *Straight Out of Pretoria: The News Freshly Squeezed*.

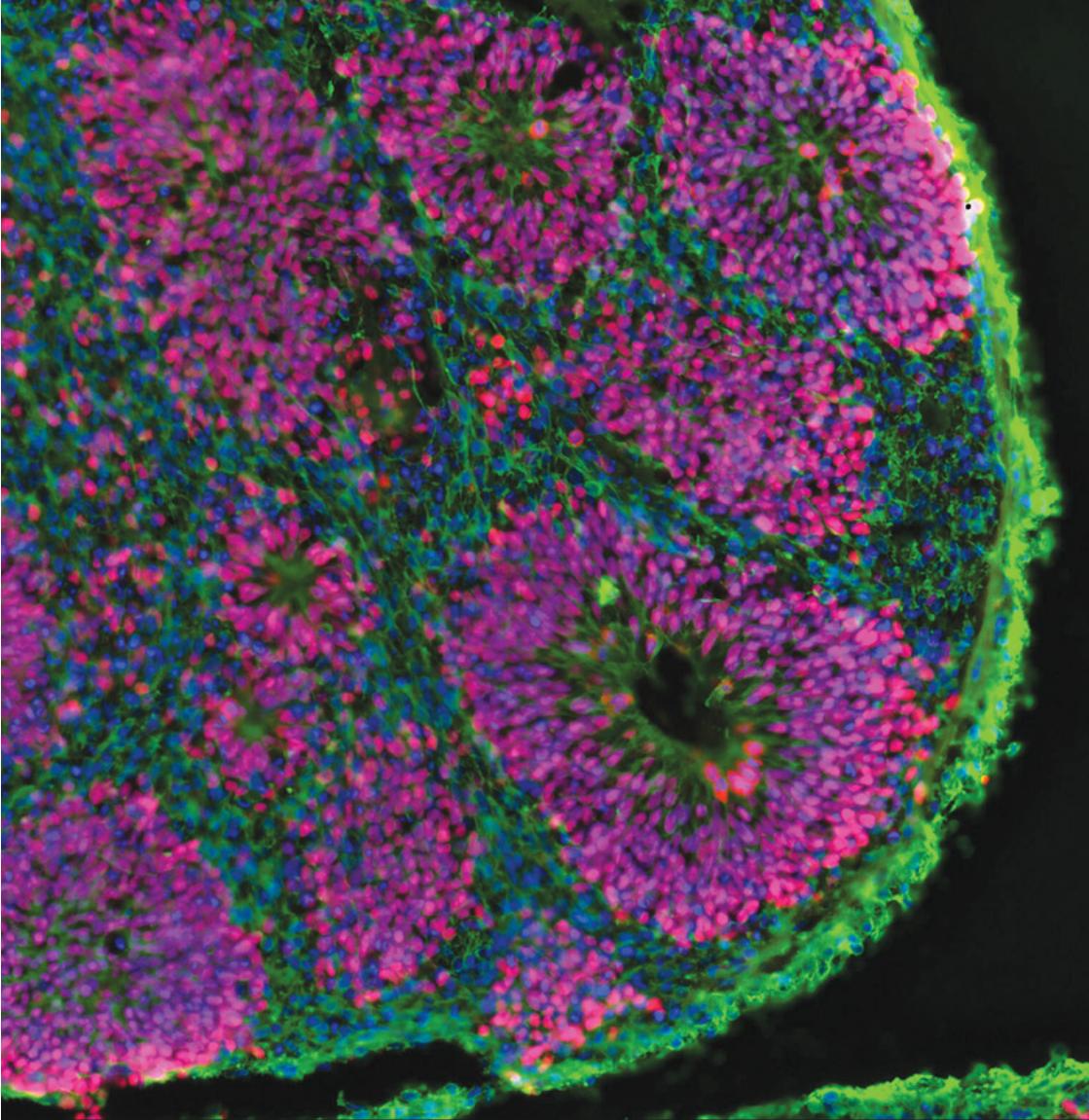
Thamm won a Naledi Award in 2025 for her satire *Round of Applause – South Africa Still Standing*, also known as *Vuisvoos Maar Nog Regop*.

Anything can and will happen, but Thamm promises to include a few of the previous favourite stories for 'padkos'.

Come and laugh on the edge of the madness of the world.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575439898>





Medicine

THE ORIGINS OF WESTERN MEDICINE

Emeritus Professor Sebastian van As, Department of Paediatric Surgery, University of Cape Town

Wednesday 21–Friday 23 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

The Ancient Egyptian civilisation spanned three millennia and represents the cradle of Western medicine. This course will highlight some of the basic Ancient Egyptian concepts regarding health, as well as various aspects of ancient medical care, including medical and surgical therapies. The Greek period started with Asclepius, son of Apollo and the early God of Medicine, after whom the first hospitals, the Asclepieia, were named. Pythagoras, a mathematician, started the scientific tradition in medicine. Hippocrates, the Prince of All Doctors, left approximately seventy medical text books. Much of Roman medicine was focused on the army. Claudius Galen (130–200 CE) was in charge of gladiators and can be described as the first trauma surgeon. He called the gladiator wounds the ‘windows to the body’ and founded the humeral theory. Much of the Greco-Roman medical tradition was incorporated in the very sophisticated Arabic medicine, also influenced by Indian and Chinese medicine. Arabic medicine was the base for Medieval medicine, gradually metamorphosing into our modern Western medicine.

Lecture titles

1. Pre-history and Egyptian medicine
2. Greco-Roman medicine
3. Arabic and Medieval medicine

Recommended reading

Lyons, AS and Petrucelli, R. 1997. *Medicine: An Illustrated History*. New York: Abrams Books.

Parker, S. 2016. *Medicine: The Definitive Illustrated History*. London: Penguin Random House.

Porter, R. 2001. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Medicine*. University College London: Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575450090>



MUSIC AND MEDICINE: INTEGRATION OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Emeritus Professor Steve Reid, Department of Family, Community and Emergency Care, University of Cape Town; Dr Bridget Rennie-Salonen, Music Department, Stellenbosch University; Dr Linda Muller, researcher, University of Cape Town

Wednesday 28–Friday 30 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

This course explores the intersection of music and health. Beginning with the common ground of rhythms in the body and in music, the conceptual basis of the healing power of music will be explored, including some practical examples and performances. The second lecture delves into the fascinating lives of health professionals and doctors who were and are artists in their own right; it will include a discussion of the occupational health of musicians themselves. Alongside the artistic passion and fulfilment, musicians face a range of preventable health issues that impact on their performance and wellbeing, including pain and injuries, hearing and vocal health problems, and mental health challenges. Finally, the possibility of consilience between artistic and scientific modalities, two different languages for understanding the world, will be presented and discussed in terms of prevailing theoretical frameworks. This will be followed by a final short performance.

Lecture titles

1. Music and health	<i>Prof Steve Reid</i>
2. Musical health professionals, musicians' health	<i>Prof Steve Reid & Dr Bridget Rennie-Salonen</i>
3. Consilience: integration of art and science	<i>Prof Steve Reid & Dr Linda Muller</i>

Recommended reading

Davidoff, F. 2011. Music Lessons: What Musicians Can Teach Doctors (and Other Health Professionals). *Ann Intern Med*, 154(6), pp. 426–429. <https://archive.nytimes.com/well.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/03/what-doctors-can-learn-from-musicians/>

Musgrave, G. 2022. Music and Wellbeing vs. Musicians' Wellbeing: Examining the Paradox of Music-making Positively Impacting Wellbeing, but Musicians Suffering from Poor Mental Health. *Cultural Trends*, 32(3), pp. 280–295. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09548963.2022.2058354>

Popova, M. 2016. A Shelter in Time: John Berger on the Power of Time. *The Marginalian*. <https://www.themarginalian.org/2023/06/27/john-berger-some-notes-on-song/>

Reid, S. 2008. Music as a Metaphor for the Medical Consultation. *South African Family Practice*, 50(1), pp. 62–64. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20786204.2008.10873670>

South, J. 2021. The 'music of the spheres' in Greece and beyond. <https://www.conductinggonesouth.net/blog/blog-post-title-three-48k6t>

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this lecture.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/Performance.aspx?itemid=1575450700>



DESIGNED FOR LIFE: THE ART OF HUMAN-CENTRED MEDICAL INNOVATION

Professor Sudesh Sivarasu, Division of Biomedical Engineering; Michael Awood, Chief Technical Officer; Joel Philpot, Senior Chief Officer; Johnty Oehley, PhD candidate, Division of Biomedical Engineering, University of Cape Town

Monday 26–Tuesday 27 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

Step into the fascinating world of medical device innovation, where innovative technology meets real-life needs. This course will reveal how the human-centred approach shapes effective, meaningful healthcare solutions.

The first lecture discusses how successful devices begin with a deep understanding of people – what motivates them, what they find challenging and what truly improves their quality of life. Through accessible insights and relatable examples, participants will grasp design thinking principles and learn why the user's voice drives every stage of innovation.

The second lecture brings theory to life via vivid case studies. Hear inspiring accounts of products created to empower the user, such as a novel wrist splint, an ultrasound sensor attachment for canes for the blind, a 3D-printed prosthetic and an innovative sleep apnoea diagnostic and treatment device. These innovations demonstrate how thoughtful design transforms complex technologies into intuitive tools.

Ideal for a broad audience, particularly those curious about innovations that can benefit them or their loved ones, these lectures provide enriching insight into the transformative power of empathetic, purposeful design.

Lecture titles

1. Putting people first: the journey of user-centred design
2. Innovations in action: real-life stories

Recommended reading

<http://ebiodesign.org/gallery/>

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this lecture.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575451598>





HOT TOPICS IN NEUROSCIENCE

UCT's Neuroscience Institute, located on the campus of Groote Schuur Hospital, has over 80 members spanning neuroscientific disciplines such as clinical neuroscience, cognitive and behavioural neuroscience, developmental neuroscience, neuroimaging, molecular and cellular neuroscience, computational neuroscience, social neuroscience, neurophysiology and neuroanatomy, neurogenetics and neuroethics.

Through research excellence and the use of cutting-edge technologies the Institute aims to foster groundbreaking discoveries that will create an Africa where every person can achieve their full potential through brain health.

You can visit the Neuroscience Institute website at: <https://neuroscience.uct.ac.za>

WHY EMPATHY IS BREAKING HEALTHCARE: THE NEUROSCIENCE OF COMPASSION

Dr Heidi Matisoff, senior lecturer and researcher, Neuroscience Institute and the Ethics Lab, University of Cape Town; honorary research associate, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Monday 26 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and Students R58

This lecture is part of the Neuroscience Institute's Hot Topics in Neuroscience series.

'Climb into someone's skin and walk around in it.' This iconic call to empathy from *To Kill a Mockingbird* has long inspired healthcare professionals to connect deeply with patients. But in today's strained clinical environments, is empathy still serving us – or is it part of the problem?

This provocative lecture challenges the assumption that empathy is always beneficial in healthcare. Drawing on a real-life story of a burnt-out HIV clinician and a striking question from a medical student – 'Is not caring always a bad thing?' – the lecture explores how excessive emotional identification with patients may actually contribute to moral suffering, burnout and compromised care. Using insights from neuroscience, including the work of Tania Singer and Olga Klimecki, we will distinguish between empathy – the sharing of another's pain – and compassion, a pro-social, action-oriented response grounded in warmth and care. While empathy can trigger distress and feelings of being overwhelmed, compassion offers a more resilient, sustainable foundation for healthcare work. In high-stakes, resource-constrained settings like South Africa, where clinicians are already under extraordinary pressure, asking them to 'walk in their patients' shoes' may do more harm than good. Instead, we need a model of care that walks with patients – side by side through systems that demand both courage and connection. The lecture invites participants to rethink the emotional demands of care and consider a more sustainable path forward, one rooted not in emotional over-identification, but in the steady, grounded practice of compassion.

Recommended reading

Bloom, P. 2016. *Against Empathy: The Case for Rational Compassion*. New York: Vintage Publishers.
Mihalache, AS and LeoZăgrean, L. Compassion vs. empathy: Necessary distinctions in approaching medical care, *Romanian Medical Journal*, 68(3), pp. 354–367.

https://rmj.com.ro/articles/2021.3/RMJ_2021_3_Art-05.pdf

Ricard, M, Lutz, A and Davidson, RJ. Neuroscience Reveals the Secrets of Meditation's Benefits: Contemplative Practices that Extend Back Thousands of Years Show a Multitude of Benefits for Both Body and Mind, *Scientific American*. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/neuroscience-reveals-the-secrets-of-meditation-s-benefits/>

Singer, T and Klimecki, OM. 2014. Empathy and Compassion, *Current Biology*, 24(18), pp. 875–878.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982214007702>

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this lecture.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575447689>



ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH: A BETTER UNDERSTANDING

Professor Jackie Hoare, Head of the Division of Consultation Liaison Psychiatry, co-director of the HIV Mental Health Research Unit, Neuroscience Institute; HIV Mental Health Unit, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health

Tuesday 27 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and Students R58

This lecture is part of the Neuroscience Institute's Hot Topics in Neuroscience series.

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is characterised by improvements in higher-order cognitive abilities and corresponding refinements of the structure and function of the brain regions that support them. Importantly, understanding adolescence as a critically important adolescent developmental period not only provides a mechanism for normative adolescent development, it provides a framework for understanding the role of experience and neurobiology in the emergence of psychopathology that occurs during this developmental period. Understanding adolescent neurodevelopment significantly enhances interactions with teenagers by providing insight into their cognitive, emotional and social development. This knowledge helps caregivers, educators and parents better understand behaviours, manage challenges and create supportive environments for healthy growth and development. By recognising the unique brain changes during this period, individuals can foster stronger relationships, improve communication and empower adolescents to reach their full potential.

Recommended reading

Bethlehem, RAI et al. 2022. Brain Charts for the Human Lifespan, *Nature*, 604, pp. 525–533.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-04554-y>

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this lecture.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575448172>



WHY DOES THAT HURT? WHAT WE KNOW (AND DON'T KNOW) ABOUT HOW PAIN EMERGES AND PERSISTS

Associate Professor Tory Madden, African Pain Research Initiative, Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, Neuroscience Institute, University of Cape Town

Wednesday 28 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and Students R58

This lecture is part of the Neuroscience Institute's Hot Topics in Neuroscience series.

Sometimes pain is useful – next time you will avoid the sharp corner on that table. But sometimes pain continues, interfering with your life even long after an injury has healed. Where does pain come from, and what can we do about it? How can we make sense of pain that is no longer helpful?

This lecture will address current concepts of what pain is, how it emerges and what can alter it, and will discuss how pain shapes our behaviour to protect us from harm. Participants will be introduced to a perceptual inference framework for pain, which considers the challenge of integrating diverse – and sometimes conflicting – information to work out whether we are under threat and if pain is the best way to protect ourselves. By considering how the human system receives and integrates information, and by thinking about pain as the result of this process of integration, we can better identify opportunities to reduce pain itself.

If you are interested in the topic of persistent pain, note the panel discussion hosted by the African Pain Research Initiative: *How can I find the right person to help me with persistent pain? A panel discussion on navigating the healthcare system in South Africa* on Friday 30 January at 1.00 pm. See page 103.

Recommended reading

Parker, R and Park-Ross, J (eds). 2024. *Understanding Pain. Unravelling the Physiology, Assessment, and Management of Pain through South African stories*. Cape Town: University of Cape Town.

<https://doi.org/10.15641/978-0-7961-8936-3>

Stilwell, P and Harman, K. 2019. For a Deep Dive into Theories of Pain: An Enactive Approach to Pain: Beyond the Biopsychosocial Model. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, 18(4), pp. 637–665.

<https://tinyurl.com/2y9w8teh>

Tabor, A et al. 2017. Embodied Pain: Negotiating the Boundaries of Possible Action, *PAIN*, 158(6), pp. 1007–1011. <https://tinyurl.com/3fprbe56>

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this lecture.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575448344>



TRAUMATIC STRESS ACROSS GENERATIONS: EPIGENETIC INSIGHTS

Associate Professor Nastassja Koen, Neuroscience Institute; Psychiatric Genetics Group of the Brain-Behaviour Centre, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town

Thursday 29 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and Students R58

This lecture is part of the Neuroscience Institute's Hot Topics in Neuroscience series.

Exposure to trauma is highly prevalent globally and in South Africa. According to the *South African Stress and Health Study*, most adult South Africans have been exposed to at least one potentially traumatic event in their lifetimes. There is also growing evidence of the adverse effects of perinatal traumatic stress, for both mothers and children. However, the neurobiology underpinning these associations is not yet fully understood. Epigenetic mechanisms – heritable changes in gene expression that are not caused by direct changes to the DNA sequence – may play a role. This lecture will give an overview of global evidence, as well as emerging data from South Africa, of observed associations between exposure to traumatic stress (and related disorders) and adverse outcomes, and the potential role of epigenetics in these associations.

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this lecture.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575448612>



GROWING MINI BRAINS: HOW STEM CELLS ARE HELPING US UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES US HUMAN

Dr Mubeen Goolam, senior lecturer and principal investigator, Neuroscience Institute; Division of Cell Biology in the Human Biology Department, University of Cape Town

Friday 30 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and Students R58

This lecture is part of the Neuroscience Institute's Hot Topics in Neuroscience series.

What if we could grow tiny models of the human brain in the lab, starting from just a few of our own cells? This lecture will explore how stem cells are unlocking this possibility through a groundbreaking technology known as brain organoids. These 3D structures are grown from lab-made stem cells, a special cell that can develop into any type of cell and helps to repair or grow new tissues. Brain organoids mimic early brain development and are changing the way researchers study human biology, evolution and neural diseases. This lecture will take participants on a journey from the basics of stem cell science to the futuristic world of lab-grown mini brains. It will cover how scientists are able to generate stem cells in the lab, coax these cells into forming organoids, and how these organoids compare to real brains. It will also discuss what these models can (and can't) tell us. Finally, the lecture will examine how this research is helping researchers understand brain disorders better and how it is paving the way for novel treatment approaches.

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this lecture.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575449225>



HOW CAN I FIND THE RIGHT PERSON TO HELP ME WITH PERSISTENT PAIN? NAVIGATING THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Professor Romy Parker, Director of Pain Management Unit, Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, Neuroscience Institute, University of Cape Town

Friday 30 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and Students R58

This panel discussion is part of the Neuroscience Institute's Hot Topics in Neuroscience series.

For a person with persistent pain, finding the right professional to help can be tough. Who can provide a diagnosis? Whom should you trust? Who will help you to recover? This interdisciplinary panel of experienced professionals will discuss common difficulties and practical strategies to help you navigate this journey. We aim to equip participants with insight into how the South African healthcare system works, (both private and public), to provide understanding of the various training pathways for clinical and other pain specialists, and to discuss which are the most useful questions to ask to find the right specialist or team to support an individual in their journey of recovery.

Panellists

Helen Buchanan (occupational therapist)

Huyaam Samuels (doctoral candidate and person living with persistent pain)

Dr Kerry Louw (lead psychiatrist, Tygerberg Hospital Chronic Pain Clinic)

Dr Livia van Rensburg (GP, private practice)

Dr Rowan Duys (lead anaesthetist, Groote Schuur Hospital Chronic Pain Clinic)

Chair

Professor Romy Parker

Recommended reading

Parker, R and Park-Ross, J (eds). 2024. *Understanding Pain. Unravelling the Physiology, Assessment, and Management of Pain through South African stories*. Cape Town: University of Cape Town.

<https://doi.org/10.15641/978-0-7961-8936-3>

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this session.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575449760>



VULA: JOURNEY FROM AN IDEA IN A RURAL CLINIC TO REVOLUTIONISING CARE FOR TWO MILLION PATIENTS

Dr William Mapham, CEO, Vula Medical

Thursday 29 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Dr Mapham's passion is improving healthcare. This passion, combined with experience in technology and behaviour-change interventions, led to his launching Vula Medical in 2014. Vula creates a growing network of health workers, enabling specialists to give advice and organise referrals. Vula connects public and private health facilities, increasing collaboration between the two sectors. In South African terms, Vula is used in more facilities than the equivalent of Engen, Shell, Wimpy and Nando's combined. Dr Mapham enjoys sharing the challenges, as well as the way data can now be used to improve health systems.

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this session.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575451965>



CURRENT UNDERSTANDINGS OF NEURODIVERGENCE AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

Dr Nick Davies, *clinical psychologist*

Friday 23 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Neurodivergence refers to the naturally occurring variation in human brains, encompassing conditions such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, and others. Far from being mere diagnostic labels, these profiles represent fundamentally different – and equally valid – ways of processing, sensing and engaging with the world. This lecture will explore the many implications of neurodivergence, including information processing, executive functioning, energy regulation, and masking. It will also address the frequent co-occurrence of neurodivergent conditions and the close links between neurodivergence and mental health.

Drawing on current research, the lecture highlights shifting paradigms – from deficit-based models to strength-aware, neuro-affirming perspectives. Understanding how neurodivergent minds function allows us to reimagine environments that enable and empower, rather than disable and constrain.

Crucially, the lecture considers the practical implications of this evolving knowledge: what it means for educators, employers, clinicians and families to move beyond awareness toward meaningful inclusion. This lecture is for anyone seeking deeper insight into supporting neurodivergent individuals, and reshaping systems that too often fail to accommodate difference.

Recommended reading

Craddock, E. 2024. Raising the Voices of ADHD Women and Girls: Exploring the Co-occurring Conditions of Autism and ADHD. *Disability & Society*, 39(8), pp. 2161–2165.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2023.2299342>

Gillberg, C. 2010. The Essence in Child Psychiatry: Early Symptomatic Syndromes Eliciting Neuro-developmental Clinical Examinations. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 31(6), pp. 1543–1551.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2010.06.002>

McKinney, A, O'Brien, S, Maybin, JA, Chan, SWY, Richer, S and Rhodes, S. 2024. Camouflaging in Neurodivergent and Neurotypical Girls at the Transition to Adolescence and its Relationship to Mental Health: A Participatory Methods Research Study. *JCPP Advances*, 4(4), e12294.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jcv.212294>

Nason, B. 2020. *The Autism Discussion Page: On Stress, Anxiety, Shutdowns and Meltdowns*. London/Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
(Also serialised at <https://www.facebook.com/autismdiscussionpage>)

Rajotte, E, Grandisson, M, Couture, MM, Desmarais, C, Chrétien-Vincent, M, Godin, J and Thomas, N. 2024. A Neuroinclusive School Model: Focus on the School, not on the Child. *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, & Early Intervention*, 18(2), pp. 281–299. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19411243.2024.2341643>

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this session.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575452235>



HIV STILL MATTERS: EXPLORING PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND WHY COLLECTIVE ATTENTION REMAINS CRITICAL

Dr Mopo Radebe, Director, Health Programmes, Clinton Health Access Initiative

Thursday 22 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

This engaging and thought-provoking lecture will explore the evolving landscape of HIV, from its virological foundations to the current epidemiological trends and critical policy challenges. Participants will gain a clear understanding of how HIV affects the immune system, the milestones achieved in prevention and treatment, and why recent setbacks such as global funding cuts threaten to reverse progress. With an emphasis on the South African context, the course demystifies complex health data and calls attention to the human stories behind the statistics. Through interaction, storytelling and open discussion, participants will be empowered to challenge stigma, understand the science, and explore their role in building compassionate, patient communities. No prior scientific knowledge is required – just curiosity and a willingness to engage.

Health professionals can earn CPD points for this session.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performances.aspx?itemid=1575452480>



CANCELLED

THE GUINEA PIG CLUB

Professor David Muckart, surgeon

Wednesday 21 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

This lecture describes the unique injuries sustained by aircrew during World War II and the surgical innovations designed to treat such patients. Most injuries involved severe burns to the hands and face. The proposed procedures were explained to the patients, as well as the fact that these procedures had never been tried before and were essentially experimental. Hence the patients created a club, The Guinea Pig Club.

Recommended reading

Fitzharris, L. 2022. *The Facemaker*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Godwin, Y. 1997. 'Time is the healer': McIndoe's Guinea Pigs Fifty Years on. *British Journal of Plastic Surgery*, 50, pp. 88–98.

Mayhew, EH. 2011. *The Reconstruction of Warriors*. Barnsley: Frontline Books.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575452747>





Science



TWENTIETH CENTURY GIANTS OF SCIENCE

Emeritus Professor David Wolfe, physicist, University of New Mexico, United States of America

Monday 26–Wednesday 28 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

Isaac Newton created modern science in the seventeenth century. He showed that the language the Universe spoke was mathematics, and he invented the calculus to communicate with nature. Late in the nineteenth century the atom, the basis of everything, was discovered to have a structure which was difficult to understand. The difficulty was that the language spoken at the atomic level was completely different from the one then in use. Thus it was necessary to create and understand quantum mechanics. The first person to understand this problem was the Dane Niels Bohr. There were many great thinkers to follow, and Robert Oppenheimer was one of the finest. A theorist, yet chosen to lead the development of the most horrible weapon imaginable, Richard Feynman opened many new doors and introduced a structure to help understand quantum mechanics.

Lecture titles

1. Niels Bohr: the father of quantum mechanics
2. Robert Oppenheimer: so much more than just the builder of the bomb
3. Richard Feynman: the father of the quark, and so much more

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575453669>



ALTERED STATES, DREAMS AND ARCHIVES

Emeritus Professor John Parkington; Dr Siyakha Mguni, archaeologists, University of Cape Town

Monday 19–Wednesday 21 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

This course will describe a history of attempts to understand rock paintings, particularly those from the Cederberg, moving further into the minds and intentions of the painters. We associate our understandings with ethnographic records of hunters and gatherers from southern Africa and beyond who do or do not paint. Although we highlight the Western Cape, there will be many more examples of rock art from other parts of the subcontinent and beyond. The primary conclusion is that rock art was a complex meaning-making tradition rather than one that merely depicted objects from the artists' surroundings. In order to elaborate on the social and ritual contexts that the images revealed, the artists' painting choices were thus more purposeful and deliberate than arbitrary and fanciful.

Lecture titles

1. Fifty years of construing rock art through the lens of the San trance dance Dr Siyakha Mguni
2. Understanding San rock paintings: what can we learn from dreams? Dr Siyakha Mguni
3. Interpreting Cederberg rock paintings: a panoramic view from archival perspectives

Emeritus Prof John Parkington

Recommended reading

Garlake, PS. 1995. *The Hunter's Vision: The Prehistoric Art of Zimbabwe*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Lewis-Williams, D and Dowson, TA. 2000. *Images of Power: Understanding San Rock Art*. Cape Town: Struik Publishers.

Mguni, S. 2015. *Termites of the Gods: San Cosmology in Southern African Rock Art*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press.

Parkington, JE. 2003. *Cederberg Rock Paintings: Follow the San*. Clanwilliam: Living Landscape Project.

Rusch, N and Parkington, JE. 2010. *San Rock Engravings: Marking the Karoo Landscape*. Cape Town: Struik Travel & Heritage.

Solomon, A. 1998. Ethnography and Method in Southern African Rock Art Research. In: Chippindale, C and Taçon, PSC (eds). *The Archaeology of Rock Art*, pp. 268–284. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575455779>



A 'JUST TRANSITION' OR JUST A TRANSITION?

Mira Dutschke, Executive Director, Kuhama Consultancy

Monday 19–Wednesday 21 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

Climate change is both a human rights and a social justice issue. Those most affected are those already marginalised, who have contributed the least to the crisis. This course explores how active citizens in South Africa can respond to climate change and seize opportunities presented by the global shift to renewable energy.

The first lecture examines the global and local impacts of climate change through a social justice lens, using real-world examples to show how it deepens existing inequalities in the Global South. It simplifies technical terms and focuses on effects in rural and remote South African regions. In the next lecture the concept of a 'just transition' to a net-zero carbon future is discussed. This approach, supported by President Ramaphosa and international policy, aims to move away from fossil fuels while ensuring the transition is fair. It prioritises creating opportunities, protecting livelihoods and addressing historic inequalities. The final lecture focuses on the legal and policy tools supporting a 'just transition' in South Africa. It highlights the role of active citizenship through democratic and governance structures, especially at the municipal level. Collaboration with communities, civil society and the private sector is essential to making this transition inclusive and effective.

Lecture titles

1. Claiming the climate narrative
2. Leaving no-one behind
3. Democracy for climate justice

Recommended reading

Dutschke, M. 2024. Supporting Partnerships in Community-driven Climate Action. Democracy Works Foundation.

Dutschke, M and RIA Digital Podcast series: Sibambene: Exploring Community-based Climate Action.

Singh, K and Dutschke, M. 2025. Civil Society Organisations as Unrecognised Climate Action Leaders. Inspire. <https://inspire-excellence.net/category/fostering-inclusive-growth-through-climate-change-champions/>

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575456005>



GEOLOGICAL DEEP TIME

Emeritus Professor John Compton, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Cape Town

Monday 19–Wednesday 21 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

We live for such a brief period of time compared to the age of Earth, making it difficult for us to comprehend geological deep time. For most of history, Earth was considered to be created by a god within the relatively recent past – c6 000 years ago. However, when people started to look at the rocks rather than religious texts, they began to realise that Earth was incredibly old. Just how old was a difficult question to answer, but the presence of fossils allowed for an initial and detailed ordering of the relative age of rocks. It was only in the early twentieth century, with the discovery of radioactive elements, that absolute, numerical ages were successfully applied to rocks, giving rise to our modern understanding of the timing of Earth's eventful past. This course introduces the concept of deep time and what it means to our own short existence on Earth.

Lecture titles

1. What is deep time?
2. A history of deep time: the fossil record
3. A history of deep time: radiometric, numerical dating of rocks

Recommended reading

Compton, JS. 2024. *Interpreting Earth: A History of Geology Through Encounters with Table Mountain*. Cape Town: Earthspun Books.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575456354>



PERCEIVED SCIENTIFIC PARADOXES

Rob Louw, physics lecturer, U3A science groups, United Kingdom

Thursday 29–Friday 30 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

A paradox is a statement that leads to a circular and self-contradictory argument or describes a situation that logically is impossible. A true logical paradox is a paradox constructed in such a way that there really is no way out of the loop. This course will discuss perceived scientific paradoxes which can be resolved with a bit of fundamental scientific knowledge. Five enigmas will be discussed.

Lecture titles

1. Achilles and the tortoise; Maxwell's Demon
2. The pole in the barn and the twin paradoxes; Schrödinger's cat

Recommended reading

Al-Khalili, J. 2012. *Paradox*. London: Transworld Publishers.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575456978>



BIG TELESCOPES: EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM TO THE BIG BANG

Professor Don Kurtz, astronomer, Centre for Space Research, Physics Department, North-West University

Thursday 22–Friday 23 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

For most of the twentieth century two large telescopes led in astronomical research: the 2.5 m ('100 inch') Hooker Telescope and the 5 m ('200 inch') Hale Telescope – both in Southern California. Then, in the last thirty years, new technology has led to a plethora of telescopes with mirrors 8–10 m in diameter which have sprouted on remote mountains, including the South African Large Telescope near Sutherland. The biggest of all is the enormous 39 m European Extremely Large Telescope now under construction in Chile.

The first lecture will look at how optical telescopes work and how new technology has revolutionised their construction, operation and scientific abilities. The second lecture goes beyond the visible, looking at the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescopes near Carnarvon, South Africa, the James Webb Space Telescope which observes in the infra-red to see back to the time of the formation of the first stars after the Big Bang thirteen billion years ago, and gamma-ray telescopes that observe the biggest explosions since the Big Bang. These telescopes also study the atmospheres of some of the exoplanets around other stars, in the search for other life in the Universe. The new telescopes are among the most sophisticated machines ever imagined and built.

Lecture titles

1. A century of the biggest optical telescopes
2. Beyond the visible: astronomy from radio to gamma rays

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575457710>



CRAZY CRUSTACEANS

Professor Mike Bruton, informal science educator, museum and science centre development consultant

Monday 19 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Crustaceans are the insects of the sea and freshwaters and resemble their terrestrial cousins by having hard exoskeletons and complex life cycles. They have jointed legs that allow them to crawl, swim, burrow and carry out specialised functions in every aquatic habitat. They are masters of stealth and camouflage, and range in size from minute planktonic larvae to giant spider crabs with 3.7-metre leg spans. They have a single-chambered heart, and their blood (haemolymph) is not confined to vessels but circulates directly through tissues. Our oceans could not function without crustaceans as they are major movers and shakers in food webs and carbon cycles, and krill are keystone species that are a vital food source for fish, seabirds, seals and whales. Crustaceans are even used by human researchers as sensitive indicators of environmental changes. We need to learn more about them to appreciate their importance.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575457949>



STUPENDOUS SPIDERS

Professor Mike Bruton, informal science educator, museum and science centre development consultant

Tuesday 20 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Despite their reputation as repulsive creepy-crawlies, spiders are beautifully adapted for their predatory lifestyles and have created, through natural selection, silk fibres that are far stronger than those invented by humans. They use silk to build webs, catch and wrap prey, as safety lines when climbing, to trap bubbles of air underwater, and even as sails to glide through the air. Web spiders build elaborate webs to catch their prey, jumping spiders can jump fifty times their own height, and fish-eating spiders are expert underwater ambush hunters. Spiders typically have eight eyes and modified mouthparts with fangs to inject venom into prey. The males are romantic creatures that engage in elaborate courtship rituals to attract their sweethearts, involving dancing, vibrating the web or presenting her with prey. It's time to rethink the persona of spiders.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575458169>



MONUMENTAL MOLLUSCS

Professor Mike Bruton, informal science educator, museum and science centre development consultant

Wednesday 21 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Surprisingly, molluscs are the largest marine phylum, comprising about 23% of all the named marine animals. They are also highly diverse in size and structure, as well as in behaviour, habitat and lifestyle, in the oceans as well as on land and in freshwaters. What are the key factors that have made them so successful? Is it because they have a remarkable range of body forms, ranging from snails, nudibranchs, mussels and oysters to squids and octopi? Or is it because they have highly specialised feeding, breathing and circulation systems, or a sophisticated genetic toolkit that allows them to adapt rapidly to changing environments? There is now increasing evidence that octopi are intelligent and can feel pain, and questions are being asked about whether it is ethical to farm them for food or use them in research. What do you think? Should molluscs enjoy special rights?

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575458464>



ENTERPRISING ECHINODERMS

Professor Mike Bruton, informal science educator, museum and science centre development consultant

Thursday 22 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

The five-rayed (pentaradial) echinoderms have adopted a unique, otherworldly body plan to face the challenges posed by living in the sea, as all other major animal groups are bilaterally symmetrical, at least as adults. They are also the only major group of animals that lives exclusively in the oceans, with no freshwater or terrestrial representatives. Why is this? Although they have a standardised body plan, the starfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, bristle stars, basket stars and sea lilies vary greatly in form and function. Furthermore, they have many skills that we, as mere humans, don't have, such as the ability to digest food outside their bodies and regenerate lost limbs. But how can an animal with no brain or blood survive the cut and thrust of the arms race between predators and prey in the ocean? Find out more about these enterprising, starstruck critters.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575459347>



PERPLEXING PEOPLE

Professor Mike Bruton, informal science educator, museum and science centre development consultant

Wednesday 28 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

We all belong to one species but *Homo sapiens* shows a greater range of cultural differences than any other animal. We are special due to our large, complex brains, our language, and our capacity for abstract reasoning and symbolic thought. These traits have allowed us to thrive, adapt to a wide range of environments, create complex societies, and become the most numerous large animals ever. Yet, despite our intelligence and advanced technologies, we find ourselves at a crossroad. We are the first animal to domesticate itself and lose its ecological niche. Our ability to manipulate the environment is unprecedented, and we have exceeded the planet's ability to compensate for our actions. Although we arose from and survive through biological processes, we are no longer part of wild nature. Our biggest arrogance is that we must save the planet, when it is we who need to be 'saved' as we are the misfits in nature, not the other species. But do we have the will to do so, or is our cultural diversity our biggest enemy?

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575458739>



OUR SCIENCE, OURSELVES: HOW GENDER, RACE AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS SHAPED THE STUDY OF SCIENCE

Christa Kuljian, author, *Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand, (WiSER)*

Thursday 29 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Our Science, Ourselves tells the story of a trailblazing network of women scientists in the Boston area of the United States of America in the 1970s, 80s and 90s, including Ruth Hubbard, Rita Arditti, Evelyn Fox Keller, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Evelynn Hammonds, Banu Subramaniam and Nancy Hopkins. Inspired by the women's movement, they developed feminist and anti-racist critiques of science. In this lecture, author and science writer Christa Kuljian pays tribute to these women and explores how science is often shaped by its social and political context.

Recommended reading

Kuljian, C. 2024. *Our Science, Ourselves: How Gender, Race, and Social Movements Shaped the Study of Science*. Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press.

<https://johannesburgreviewofbooks.com/2024/03/25/they-want-to-see-that-science-was-not-isolated-from-politics-but-shaped-by-it-read-an-excerpt-from-our-science-ourselves-by-christa-kuljian/>

TO BOOK: <https://www.wbooks.co.za/p/Performance.aspx?itemid=1575458908>



CANCELLED

OUT OF THIS WORLD AND INTO THE NEXT

Dr Adriana Marais, theoretical physicist, author, adventurer

Thursday 22 January ■ 7.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

For the first time in four billion years of life on Earth, we are preparing to expand beyond home, with permanent bases planned for the Moon this decade, as a gateway to Mars and beyond. This lecture explores – within the context of the current era of space exploration – fundamental questions like: Where do we come from? Who are we? And where are we going?

Recommended reading

Marais, A. 2025. *Out of this World and Into the Next: Notes from a Physicist on Space Exploration*. London: Profile Books.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1576327488>



COSMIC AFRICA

Professor Thebe Medupe, Deputy Dean of Science, North-West University

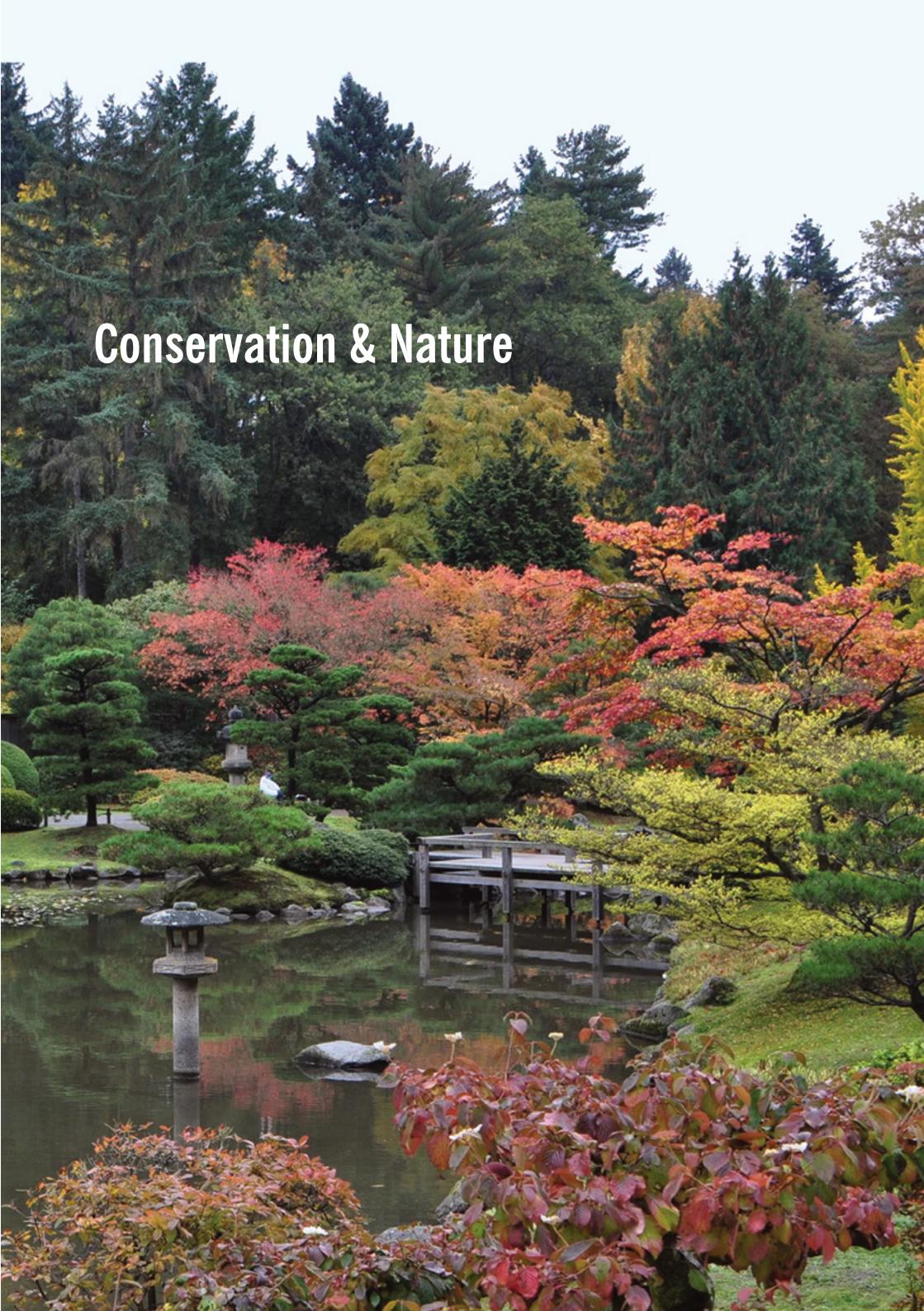
Saturday 24 January ■ 10.00 am–12.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

The relationship of ancient Greeks to the night sky is well known and documented. Have you ever wondered how African people related to stars? In this film, join Thebe Medupe as he journeys to Namibia, Mali and Egypt in search of connections between traditional African astronomy and his professional science. He interacts with hunter-gatherers in Namibia, climbs the precipitous cliffs of the Dogon people in Mali, and ventures into the Sahara in Egypt in search of the most ancient astronomy, with the aim of experiencing how people of Africa use traditional astronomy to relate to the sky. These experiences were documented in a seventy-two minute internationally acclaimed documentary, *Cosmic Africa*. The film also charts Thebe's life from his rural village with no electricity or running water, to the beginnings of his successful professional career, where he uses giant professional telescopes to look into the hearts of stars.

The film will be introduced by **Professor Thebe Medupe**, who will take questions and lead the discussion afterwards. *Cosmic Africa* was directed by award-winning Cape Town film makers Craig and Damon Foster.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575459123>



A photograph of a Japanese garden during autumn. In the foreground, a pond reflects the surrounding trees. A traditional wooden bridge with a railing spans the water. On the left, a stone lantern stands on a rock. The middle ground is filled with trees showing vibrant autumn colors of red, orange, and yellow. In the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees provides a dark, textured backdrop.

Conservation & Nature

CHINESE AND JAPANESE GARDENS: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Suzanne Perrin, independent lecturer, Arts Society, United Kingdom

Wednesday 28–Friday 30 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

Referencing the work of Emeritus Professor Wim Tijmens, this course will discuss Chinese and Japanese gardens, their traditions and divergence in construction, location, plants and philosophy.

Some of the most beautiful gardens were created in the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries.

The nobility created *Kaiyushiki* or 'strolling' gardens to impress, explore, to entertain guests and to provide diversions. The scenic views encompassed temples, shrines, boating lakes, pavilions and grottos, as well as exotic flora and fauna.

On a much smaller scale, the scholar gardens of Suzhou created intimate spaces with complex walkways and stone constructions, with rocks and pools emulating mountainous scenery to inspire painting and poetry among the literati. These were symbolic gardens of great depth in a small space, bringing calm and tranquillity to busy cities.

Chinese and Japanese tea culture provided an important ritual for social interaction. The philosophy and practice were different for each country, but the basis was the same – to create an environment for tranquil exchange, where host and guest were equals within the tearoom. The tea garden was the journey towards the tea house, in preparation for the shared ritual to come.

Readings will be given from Professor Tijmen's recollections and stories on his travels to China and Japan and clips will be shown of his journeys in Bhutan and China.

Lecture titles

1. Parkland estates, palaces and playgrounds
2. The scholar's garden: gardens of the mind and contemplation
3. Tea gardens: a garden within a garden

Recommended reading

Itoh, T. 1984. *The Gardens of Japan*. Burlington: Kodansha.

Kilpatrick, J. 2014. *Fathers of Botany: The Discovery of Chinese Plants by European Missionaries*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Nose, M. 2002. *The Modern Japanese Garden*. USA: Tuttle Publishing.

Wang, JC. 1998. *The Chinese Garden*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575462639>



HUMANS IN NATURE

Emeritus Professor Sebastian van As, Department of Paediatric Surgery, University of Cape Town

Monday 26–Wednesday 28 January ■ 11.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R345; Staff and students R173

With the threats of the current Anthropocene it is prudent to reassess the position of humans in nature. Most Westerners assume that there is a distinct dichotomy between animals and humans. Such a distinction may be an illusion. We are far more animal and part of nature than we are likely to admit. The purpose of this course is to re-think the place we occupy in nature. Instead of being on top of the pyramid, we may be a mere footnote in nature. The course will discuss the topic at various levels. It will start with the origin and definitions of life and the evolution of plants and animals. Following this will be the evolution of primates and *Homo sapiens*, finally leading up to the evolution of consciousness.

Lecture titles

1. The origin and definitions of life
2. The origin and evolution of man
3. The evolution of consciousness

Recommended reading

Damasio, A. 2011. *Self Comes to Mind*. New York: Pantheon Books.

Darwin, C. 1859. *On the Origin of Species*. London: John Murray.

Dennet, D. 2017. *From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds*. New York: WW Norton and Company.

Harari, YN. 2011. *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. Israel: Dvir Publishing Company Ltd.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575462786>



CAPE HONEY BEES: COGNITIVE MARVELS

Chris Nicklin, apiarist, documentary film maker

Tuesday 27 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Honey bees are far more than mere pollinators; they are cognitive powerhouses with problem-solving abilities. Ground-breaking research reveals that these tiny-brained insects exhibit complex decision-making abilities, numerical cognition, emotional states and even cultural learning. Bees navigate using abstract concepts, communicate through intricate dances and adapt to novel challenges – skills that are critical for survival in a changing world.

This lecture explores why such intelligence matters to humans. As apex pollinators, bees sustain global food systems, yet pesticides, habitat loss and climate change threaten their survival. A special focus will be on the Cape honey bee (*Apis mellifera capensis*), renowned for its asexual reproduction, social parasitism and remarkable resilience. International researchers are studying its unusual genetics and behaviour, offering insights into evolution, disease resistance and even robotics. From 'hive minds' to human survival, this lecture will illustrate how bees are reshaping science, agriculture and our understanding of intelligence itself.

This lecture is related to the excursions on page 24.

Recommended reading

Bakker, K. 2022. *The Sounds of Life: How Digital Technology is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Buchmann, S. 2023. *What A Bee Knows: Exploring the Thoughts, Memories and Personalities of Bees*. Washington DC: Island Press.

Chittka, L. 2022. *The Mind of a Bee*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Munz, T. 2016. *The Dancing Bees: Karl von Frisch and the Discovery of the Honeybee Language*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Tautz, J. 2021. *Communication Between Honeybees: More than Just a Dance in the Dark*. Switzerland AG: Springer Nature.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575462935>



NEWLANDS FOREST: BARK HARVESTING AND INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT SPECIES

Willem Boshoff, actuary

Monday 26 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

In this lecture we will discuss the biodiversity of Newlands Forest, the rare and threatened plant species, the benefits to society of the forest, and the major threats the forest faces. Two threats will be addressed: invasive alien plant species and illegal bark harvesting. We will explore the reasons for and impact of bark harvesting in Newlands Forest, the impact of organised criminal groups versus low-impact individual harvesters, and also the measures we put in place to curb and stop the practice. Finally, we will investigate the invasive species that threaten the forest, how they threaten it, where they come from, how they spread, and how we are addressing that problem.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/performance.aspx?itemid=1575862625>



CAPTURING WATER

Rehad Desai, film maker; Dylan Valley, film maker and lecturer, Centre for Film and Media Studies, University of Cape Town; Professor Lesley Green, Director of Environmental Humanities South, University of Cape Town

Saturday 24 January ■ 1.00–3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Across cultures, over borders and throughout history, water is used as a symbol for life. Yet its relationship to human existence extends beyond our biological necessities. Water soaks deeply into our economic, social and political realities and, because of its indispensable and irreplaceable presence within civilisation, water can also come to be a symbol for power. The film *Capturing Water* skilfully tells this story and exposes the violent realities of water scarcity, a direct consequence of neoliberal policies and practices, compounded by the impacts of climate change. It simultaneously centres on the unwavering spirit of women and communities, from their personal struggles to their political work at the forefront of the fight for water justice. The film powerfully amplifies their vision to see water as part of a commons: available to all, with equitable distribution within and across populations, protected from misuse and harm to ensure its availability for future generations.

After the screening of the film **Rehad Desai** will be in conversation with **Professor Lesley Green** and **Dylan Valley**.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575463211>



WAITING FOR EVOLUTION: THE CLOSER THE BABOONS COME, THE MORE WE SEE OURSELVES. ARE WE PREPARED TO LOOK?

*Karin Slater, documentary film maker; invited member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences;
Oscar awards judge*

Friday 23 January ■ 5.00–6.30 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Waiting for Evolution is a documentary in the making that explores climate change, power and human behaviour on the tip of Africa, told through the lens of our fellow primates, baboons – one primate looking at another and asking who needs to evolve here? Using the current polarised issues around baboons in Simonstown as a microcosm of the larger issues around the world, the documentary explores how polarisation in communities happens. It also references the writings of Gladys Thomas (1968) to observe the patterns of repetition around power and oppression. Can we learn from the past? Can a species so close to us in shared DNA of 94% allow us to see ourselves from a new perspective?

After the film screening there will be an opportunity to listen to the protagonists: baboon rangers, scientists and the film maker, about their experience with baboons and the issues both face.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575463535>



Information Technology



LIVING WITH AI AGENTS: NAVIGATING A FUTURE OF DIGITAL COLLABORATION

Claude Formanek, PhD candidate at University of Cape Town, AI research engineer at InstaDeep Ltd.

Thursday 22–Friday 23 January ■ 9.15 am ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

We are rapidly approaching a world where autonomous AI will routinely act on our behalf – initially within the digital sphere, handling tasks ranging from scheduling meetings and managing finances to curating personalised information streams. But as these AI agents become integrated into our daily lives, critical questions arise: how can we ensure these agents align with human values, respect social norms, and prioritise cooperation? In these accessible and thought-provoking lectures we will explore how autonomous AI agents will impact on various sectors, including healthcare, finance, education and everyday interactions. These lectures will discuss exciting possibilities and potential risks, as well as the urgent need to design AI systems that actively cooperate with humans and each other, adhering closely to our shared ethical standards. We will envision a cooperative future where humans and AI collaborate, and discover the crucial steps we must take today to responsibly shape the digital agents of tomorrow.

Lecture titles

1. AI agents explained: transforming work, productivity and society
2. AI agents in the wild: the future of human-AI and AI-AI interactions

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575464102>



RISE OF THE MACHINES

Professor Bruce Bassett, Department of Mathematics, University of Cape Town

Thursday 29 January ■ 3.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Artificial Intelligence is a revolution that will likely touch every aspect of society for better or worse. In this lecture we will explore AI's origin, theory and future, and find out what it can tell us about creativity, reasoning and consciousness. We will end with practical advice on how to prepare for the coming tsunami.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575464406>



BITCOIN, BLOCKCHAIN AND CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Julian Kanjere, lecturer, University of Cape Town; senior blockchain engineer, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Saturday 31 January ■ 10.00 am–12.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R230; Staff and students R115

A cryptocurrency is a digital currency that functions as a medium of exchange, akin to the South African rand, but is mathematically secured and not issued by a central bank. An example is Bitcoin, which is the world's most recognised and largest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation. However, Bitcoin and blockchain are sometimes mistakenly considered to be synonymous, although they are distinctly different. Blockchain technology is the underlying technology that allows low-cost and high-speed digital payments (value transfer) between transacting parties via cryptocurrencies, without a centralised intermediary as is the case of traditional financial services.

This double lecture provides an overview of how the traditional and centralised financial system works – the participants, frictions, intermediaries and regulatory guardrails. It then looks at advances in technology that have given rise to blockchain technology, and how blockchain powers a new financial system that is decentralised, underpinned by code and secured by cryptography. This is followed by a look at Bitcoin and crypto markets and concludes with an overview of the cryptocurrency ecosystem (for example, cryptocurrency exchanges) and the unfolding regulatory landscape. At the end of the lecture participants will understand cryptocurrencies and their role in the emerging financial system, and the difference between Bitcoin and blockchain.

Recommended reading

Aquilina, M, Cornelli, G, Frost, J and Gambacorta, L. 2025. Cryptocurrencies and Decentralised Finance: Functions and Financial Stability Implications, Bank for International Settlements Paper No 156.

<https://www.bis.org/publ/bppdf/bispap156.htm>

Milne, A and Lawack, V. 2024. Digital Assets in Payments and Transaction Banking, South African Reserve Bank Working Paper Series WP/24/20.

Tapscott, D and Tapscott, A. 2016. *Blockchain Revolution: How the Technology Behind Bitcoin is Changing Money, Business and the World*. Penguin.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575464650>



FROM TRADITION TO TRANSFORMATION: THE CEO AND THE TECH SHIFT IN MINING

Ian Mackay, Associate Director PwC, Smart Mining

Friday 30 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

In this lecture we will discuss the current and future impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies on the way miners work and do business, starting with the strategic view from the CEO's perspective, then deep-diving into important insights we gained from a recent study, including:

- Navigating innovation with care.
- A human-centred mining approach to innovation.
- Why digital projects succeed or fail.
- Where to find margin while cutting costs without impacting your production.
- How to access the benefits of AI and data.
- A look at the skills that these changes require and how these changes impact on South Africa.

Recommended reading

Ten Insights into SA Mining. 2023. <https://www.pwc.co.za/en/press-room/ten-insights-into-4ir-2023.html>

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1576634630>





Practical Courses

Hellrosa

Fresh rose

Schwarz

WRITE YOUR SHORT STORY, FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION

Sally Cranswick, author, story coach

Monday 19–Friday 23 January ■ 10.00 am–12.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R1 575; Staff and students R790

Maximum number of participants 20

The short story is such a popular and exciting literary form. During this week of workshops, we will explore all aspects of how to write a great short story – from concept to completion. Among other things we will discuss theme, structure, setting, voice, character and genre and we will also study some great short stories and work out how you can turn your own idea into a short story. The workshops will comprise formal presentations, group discussions, writing exercises and plenty of opportunity to ask questions and get feedback from the lecturer on your writing. The aim of the week is to write some short, creative fiction but, as always, the reason for coming together is to have fun as a creative community while writing towards our highest goals.

Lecture titles

1. *Where do I start?*
The essence of a short story, generating ideas and finding a starting point
2. *Character and world building*
Creating memorable characters and fantastic settings
3. *Breaking barriers*
How voice and style can create tension and excitement
4. *Theme and structure*
Binding your beginning, middle and end together with theme
5. *I've written a story – now what?*
Self-editing essentials and short story publication opportunities

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575462122>



HOW TO WRITE A NOVEL

Dr Joanne Richards, writing trainer

Monday 26–Friday 30 January ■ 10.00 am–12.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R1 575; Staff and students R790

Maximum number of participants 20

This course will introduce participants to the fundamental principles of writing fiction, from conception to execution. It will allow them to discover the process of creative fiction and how it works best. It would suit would-be and novice writers as well as more experienced practitioners hoping to be reminded of the basics, or who need a prompt to creativity. Each session will be run as a workshop-lecture, with discussion, advice and time given for writing. Feedback will be given to as many as time permits – by the end of the course every person will have received feedback. The course will cover the elements of story and how to develop a compelling narrative and characters, immersing the reader in dramatic scenes, using point of view to create a strong voice for character, and detail to make the prose exceptional.

Lecture titles

1. The power of want: identify the hunger which underlies all stories
2. The forces of antagonism: build literary conflict to keep us reading
3. A cascade of story: create immersive and dramatic scenes
4. A voice to draw us in: use point of view to bring readers and characters together
5. All about the detail: add vivid detail to take your writing above the ordinary

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575461567>



IMAGES: OBSERVED, DREAMED AND IMAGINED

Jill Trappler, artist

Monday 26–Friday 30 January ■ 9.30 am–12.30 pm ■ COURSE FEES R3 235; Staff and students R1 575

VENUE Classroom 3A, Centlivres Building, University Avenue, Upper Campus

Maximum number of participants 20

What images await us and how do we transform them? How do we make an image and why? The journey from an idea, a dream, a place or person (remembered or observed) to making an image, and then looking at what we have made, is revealing.

In this interactive, practical image-making course we will discuss ways of making images using formal and playful approaches to find what engages us. These will include paintings, drawings or mixed media.

The course is open to beginners and experienced image makers.

A list of materials will be provided upon registration.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/Performance.aspx?itemid=1575465396>



WAYS OF SEEING

Jill Joubert, artist, art teacher

Monday 19–Friday 23 January ■ 9.30 am–12.30 pm ■ COURSE FEES R3 235; Staff and students R1 575

VENUE Classroom 3A, Centlivres Building, University Avenue, Upper Campus

Maximum number of participants 20

This practical course focuses on drawing objects and tools we use every day, using a variety of drawing techniques and materials. The five sessions have been loosely structured to respect the individual skill and pace of participants, depending on their needs and interests.

Sessions 1 and 2

These sessions will focus on a clear step-by-step drawing programme using a variety of techniques, such as blind contour drawing, continuous line and grid drawing, as well as more expressive field drawing.

Sessions 3 to 5

More complex objects will be introduced as participants gain in confidence and skills. The course will culminate in a mixed media drawing of a still life.

A list of materials will be provided upon registration.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1575465815>



MARIA CALLAS

PRIMA DONNA

A BALLET BY MARIO GAGLIONE



UCT SUMMER SCHOOL

30 JANUARY 2026

BAXTER THEATRE

For details of this ballet performance, see page 55.

PHOTO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Outside front cover Emeritus Prof John Parkington | Front cover flap Alice Parkington | p9 Digital rendering of brain, Imperial College | p16 d-school facade, UCT Media Centre Je'nine May (2022) | p27 <https://hello-newyork.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/rockefeller-center.jpg> | p56 Stanley Troutman/AP Photo (1945) | p57 Fragile X brain organoid on Day 56, Zhexing Wen | p108 Prof Mike Bruton | p123 The Seattle Japanese Garden (2011), Creative Commons 2.0 | p130 <https://observer.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/03/pexels-alesia-kozik-6771899.jpg> | p135 Jo-Anne Friedlander | Outside back cover UCT Media Centre

LEAVE SOME FOR THE HONEY BADGER

Michael Charton, chartered accountant now esteemed South African storyteller

Monday 26 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58

Summer School is delighted to offer delegates the opportunity to hear Michael Charton present the Honey Badger. This story reveals the transformative power possible when two human beings form a relationship that inspires and provides hope for our world. It describes the friendship between conservationist Ian Player and head game guard Magqubu Ntombela, and how their work revolutionised conservation. This story is beautifully told. It is riveting, powerful and utterly inspiring.

Recommended reading

Player, I. 1998. *Zulu Wilderness: Shadow and Soul*. Fulcrum Publishing.

Harthoorn, A.M. 1970. *Flying Syringe: Ten Years of Immobilising Animals in Africa*. London: Geoffrey Bles Ltd.

Player, I. 2007. *Men, Rivers and Canoes*. Fish Hoek: Echoing Green Press.

Player, I. 2013. *Into the River of Life*. South Africa: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

Player, I. 2013. *The White Rhino Saga*. South Africa: Jonathan Ball Publishers.

Rademeyer, J. 2013. *Killing for Profit – Exposing the Illegal Rhino Horn Trade*. South Africa: Penguin Random House Publishing.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/Performance.aspx?itemid=1584936729>



FROM THE TOP OF THE GAME TO A NEW FRONTIER

Swys de Bruin, Springbok assistant coach, former Super Rugby head coach and now Springbok Women's Head Coach.

Tuesday 27 January ■ 1.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES: R115; Staff and students R58.

In this lecture, Swys reflects on a personal and professional turning point: his move into women's rugby. What began as a coaching assignment became a life-changing journey that challenged his assumptions about performance, leadership, identity, and purpose in sport. He will speak candidly about what women's rugby has taught him, why it matters deeply to South Africa's sporting future, and what must change for the women's game to truly flourish.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/Performance.aspx?itemid=1585518814>

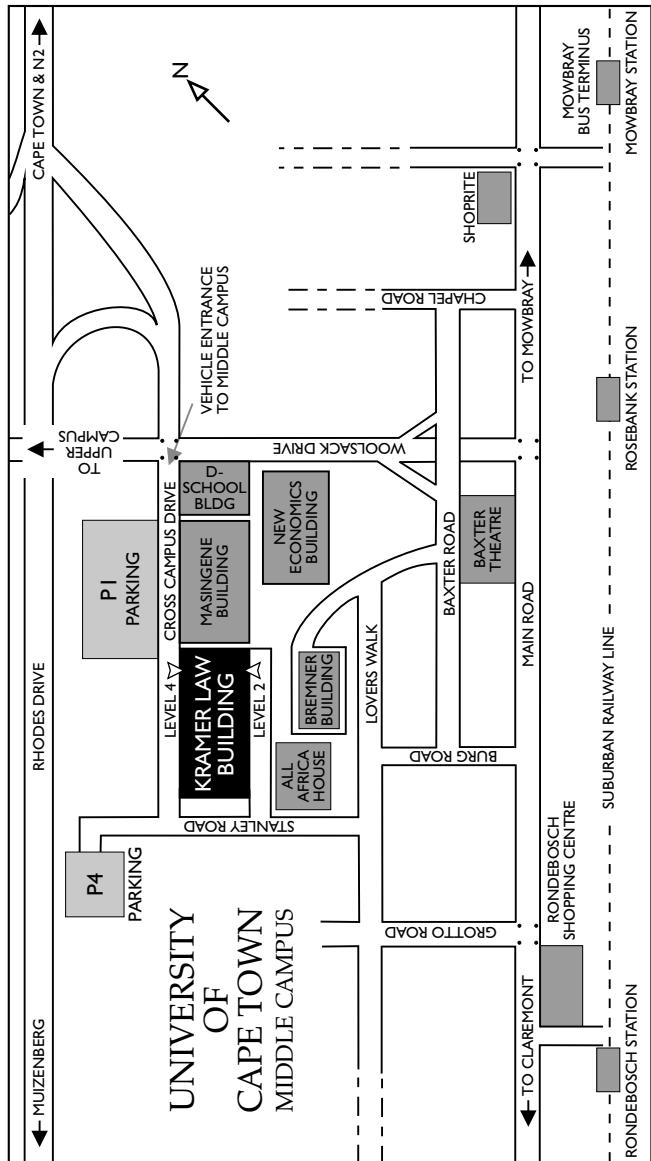


MALEMA: MONEY, POWER AND PATRONAGE*Pauli van Wyk, financial crime investigator***Thursday 29 January ■ 5.00 pm ■ COURSE FEES R115; Staff and students R58**

Over the past two decades, Malema has leveraged his growing political clout to bankroll his party and amass a personal fortune. In this revealing book, investigative journalists Micah Reddy and Pauli van Wyk follow the money, demonstrating how Malema built his fiefdom. They unearth astounding details about Malema's old, seemingly forgotten scandals in Limpopo, where he and his cronies duped not only the public, but also each other, and they trace how loot from the VBS Bank found its way to Malema and Shivambu.

TO BOOK: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/performance.aspx?itemid=1586226341>





Parking and shuttle

Parking is available on Middle Campus in P1, P4, the new Economics Building parking area and in the Bremner Building parking area. A shuttle bus service is available. Contact the shuttle office: 021 685 7135.

FOR ALL SUMMER SCHOOL ENQUIRIES

Phone: 021 650 2885 (office)

Email: ems@uct.ac.za

Website: <http://www.summerschool.uct.ac.za>

Write to: Centre for Extra-Mural Studies
Development and Alumni Department
UCT, Private Bag X3, Rondebosch, 7701

The Centre for Extra-Mural Studies is situated on Level 3 of the Kramer Law Building, Cross Campus Road, Middle Campus, University of Cape Town, which can be accessed from Woolsack Drive.

See map on inside back cover.

EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES STAFF

Medéé Rall | Zuleiga Adams | Bronwyn Geldenhuys | Nuraan Bowers



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DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI DEPARTMENT



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