

Career paths for researchers – where to in a changing world?

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#careers #researchers #graduates #PhD #students

Biographies of Speakers – Day 1

	<p style="text-align: center;">Mr Mmboneni Muofhe</p> <p>Mr Mmboneni Muofhe is the Deputy Director-General (DDG) for Technology Innovation at the Department of Science and Innovation in South Africa.</p> <p>Mr Muofhe oversaw South Africa's growing participation in European Union Research Funding programmes, led the mobilization of Official Development Assistance funds to support South Africa science system and the establishment of partnerships with multinational companies. Mr Muofhe was, in his role as DDG for International Cooperation, central in mobilizing international support for SA's bid to host the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) radio telescope in Africa.</p> <p>Mr Muofhe also has experience in management of funding instruments to support innovation which started when he was at the National Research Foundation as Coordinator, and then Manager for Technology and Human Resource for Industry Programme (THRIP), a programme designed to foster Public-Private Partnerships in technology and human capacity development.</p> <p>Mr Muofhe's current responsibilities include overseeing the implementation of SA's Space Science and Technology Strategy, Bio-economy Strategy, Energy Research, Converging Technology Platforms and oversight on implementation of the Intellectual Property Act for publicly funded R&D. He is also the South African Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Principal, a member of its Executive Committee, and Leader of the GEO African caucus and GEO Co-Chair.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Mr Bernd Oellerman</p> <p>Bernd is Director in the Regional Industrial Development unit of the Special Economic Zones and Economic Transformation (SEZ&ET) division of the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti), addressing primarily revitalization of government owned industrial parks in South Africa. Current work involves strategy and planning, policy, compliance, investment promotion, governance, financing, sustainability, operations, infrastructure, shared services, research, M&E, green transitions and stakeholder management. He has also been involved in numerous policy developments in SME development, education, ICT and industrial development during his career with extensive international experience.</p> <p>Bernd has worked in the private sector for most of his career which included running his own company, as management consultant and as internationally certified project/programme management professional in sustainable development, renewable energy, water, health, agriculture, engineering, R&D, education and training, ICT, mining and the financial sector. His work spans strategy, planning, governance, administration and implementation in government, industry and commerce, unions, communities, youth, academia, research and non-profit environments. He is passionate about people and sustainable development, driven by the belief in the restoration of Creation and every person to their original purpose and identity. His approach is systemic and integrated towards working with others to find solutions to the multidimensional challenges faced by the world.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr Mbulelo Ncango</p> <p>Dr Mbulelo Ncango is currently a director at the National Research Foundation (NRF) leading the next generation researcher funding instruments within Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development Directorate such as Honours, Masters, Doctoral Scholarships and partly postdoctoral fellowships. He obtained all his degrees from the University of the Free State and majored in Microbiology. He completed the Senior Management Development Programme (SMDP) course with University of Stellenbosch. He was previously employed as a Plant Pathologist as well as Head of Department in the Disease management unit by the Agricultural Research Council – Institute for Tropical and Subtropical</p>

	<p>Crops (ARC-ITSC) in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga province. Dr Ncango has presented at recognised national and international conferences.</p> <p>He supervised and co-supervised postgraduate students as well as provided mentorship to the DST-NRF Interns. He has authored and co-authored articles in international scientific journals of repute as well as co-authored an online-video lecture and a chapter in a book. In the process he achieved numerous awards. As part of his contribution to excellence in academia, he previously acted as a reviewer and assessor for the NRF and is a referee for ISI-accredited academic journals. Additionally, he was a member of numerous scientific local and international societies.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Mr Muimeleli Mutangwa</p> <p>Muimeleli Mutangwa is an Executive Director and Senior Researcher at the Centre for Emerging Researchers (CER) which facilitates interdisciplinary research collaborations, sector specific policy dialogues, capacity building, training and support for emerging African researchers. CER and the University of Johannesburg (UJ) have a signed 5-year agreement to collaborate through research, innovation and technology transfer. Muimeleli is also a Non-Executive Director of the Joburg Market. Muimeleli is currently enrolled for a PhD in Engineering Management with UJ, and his research areas is looking into The Analysis, Design, Optimization and Management of Sustainable Business Processes for Emerging Green Enterprises in South Africa. Under the supervision of Prof Thokozani Majosi, Muimeleli completed a Masters in Chemical Engineering from The University of the Witwatersrand focusing on utilizing mathematical optimization and process integration techniques to minimize the amount of wastewater generated in multipurpose batch processes.</p> <p>Muimeleli won the Best Student Presentation during the 4th International Conference on Sustainable Chemical Product and Process Engineering (SCPPE) held in Nanjing, China. Muimeleli has also completed short courses with the Wits Language School (WLS), Wits Business School (WBS), and Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). He recently completed a Training Workshop on Technopreneurship for Developing Countries in Malaysia organised by the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC).</p> <p>Muimeleli founded Tailor Cleanik, a chemical technology start-up that develops recipes for specialized detergents and offers deep cleaning solutions, and Ink Matter Publishers, a publishing company focused primarily on publishing the works of young emerging authors. Muimeleli is a published author of a book that has achieved a National Best Seller status, Before Varsity.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Miss Ndoni Mccunu</p> <p>Miss Ndoni Mccunu is currently pursuing a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) at the Global Change Institute at Witwatersrand University. Ndoni is also the founder & Chief Executive Officer of Black Women in Science (BWIS) a registered non-profit organization which aims to deliver capacity development interventions that target young black women scientists and researchers. She was selected as the top 200 Mail and Guardian Young South Africans, under the education sector 2016. She is a Mandela Washington Fellow 2017, selected for her contribution in Civic Leadership development in Africa for her work in BWIS. She received an Honorary Award from the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province in the division of Science Research and Entrepreneurship given by the KZN Young Achievers Awards and eThekweni Municipality. She is a winner of the Gagasi FM – SHERO Award for the Science and Technology category. Miss Mccunu is in the Steering Committee for WISSET. She is also a Greenmatter Fellow for her academic research in climate change and agriculture. Mccunu has been listed as the Top 50 most Inspiring Women in Tech in South Africa in 2017, which is an award issued by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and South Africa.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Prof Emanuela Todeva</p> <p>Emanuela Todeva is a Professor of International Business Strategy and Innovation at St. Mary's University in the UK. She is the elected Vice President of the Triple Helix Association, Co-convenor of the research group on Innovation Policy Implementation Nexus (INNOPIN), and Director of the research centre on Business Clusters, Networks and Economic Development (BCNED). She is also a Senior Consultant to the European Commission on evaluation of National Innovation Systems, Smart Specialisation policies, Mapping of Global Value Chains and Cluster Internationalisation. Her expertise includes: Triple Helix governance and intermediation; Triple Helix policy implementation through stakeholder practice; Business models for open innovation and industry/market development; Triple Helix engagement, co-alignment and co-creation; Orchestration and eco-systems design.</p>

Biographies of Speakers – Day2

	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr Lucienne Abrahams</p> <p>Luci Abrahams is the Director of the Learning Information Networking Knowledge (LINK) Centre at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), building research on digital innovation and digital transformation. She is interested in how digital technologies influence change in economic and social environments. Studies include: digital skills gap analysis; digital government strategy; scaling up innovation in tech hubs; open access in scholarly publishing (Open AIR research partnership); and health e-services improvement (Egypt-South Africa research partnership). She is interested in broader questions of research and innovation entanglement. Luci convenes the MA and PhD programmes in Interdisciplinary Digital Knowledge Economy Studies; and short courses in disruptive technologies, digital operations and digital leadership. She has served as Council Member of the National Advisory Council on Innovation, (NACI) as Board Member of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, on the boards of the State Information Technology Agency, and the National Research Foundation, and on the Council on Higher Education. She served on the Ministerial Review Panel on the Science, Technology and Innovation Institutional Landscape (2015-2017). Luci is Corresponding Editor for <i>The African Journal of Information and Communication</i>, hosted on the SciELO South Africa open access platform.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Mr Mthandeni Langa</p> <p>Mthandeni is a payments integration solutions architect with a demonstrated history of leading challenging projects in the financial services sector. He enjoys teaching programming, systems architecture, object-oriented analysis and design, database management systems, IT management, information security and artificial intelligence. A published researcher, data architect, IT strategist and enthusiastic public speaker often invited in public and professional forums. He is currently finalising an integrative framework for adaptive industrial systems optimisation doctoral thesis which is in computational intelligence generally known as artificial intelligence and is passionate about philosophy and research supervision. He is currently leading a project on unstructured data in one of the four banks in South Africa and concurrently supervising masters students at Wits Business School while employed as a strategic Tutor at the University of Johannesburg.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr Antonel Olckers</p> <p>Dr Antonel Olckers co-founded DNAbiotec (Pty) Ltd in 2001. She holds a PhD degree in molecular human genetics from the University of Pretoria for which she performed research at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, MD, USA. She left academia as professor and head of department, after having supervised more than 30 post-graduates (MSc and PhD students) during her academic career. Despite transitioning to the private sector, she still co-supervises a PhD student and is actively publishing in peer reviewed journals. Her expertise in science, business and innovation is combined in DNAbiotec® which is a knowledge-based biotech company. Over the past 18 years the company has generated IP and translated its IP into products and services that have been used by clients from 44 countries (24 in Africa). She acts as an independent DNA expert witness in forensic science and is the first chair of the recently founded South African Academy of Forensic Sciences (SAAFS). Dr Olckers has served on several national boards and committees, including the National Biotech Advisory Committee of NACI, several NACI project teams, the advisory boards of several biotech and academic entities, the BioEconomy Strategy Steering Committee, and the advisory board of NIPMO. She is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), and has severed on ASSAf panels related to Genetics & Genomics. Dr Olckers is a strong advocate for empowering the next generation of scientists in South Africa and Africa. To this end DNAbiotec® provides training via the Essential Series of Short Courses™ which includes 3 short course portfolios: science, business and forensics. Via this short course series DNAbiotec® shares its experience of the steep learning curve that scientists in business have to climb to be globally competitive. Dr Olckers believes that strong relationships between the academic and private sectors are essential to further our common national goals in science, technology and innovation. In 2018 she was honored with the Biotech Fundi Lifetime Achiever Award in recognition of her contributions to biotechnology and innovation.</p>



Dr Kousar Banu Hoorzook

Dr Kousar is a water and health specialist; she obtained her Doctorate degree in Biomedical Technology at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) Faculty of Health Science. She has 16 years of experience in the field of Microbiology and Molecular biology in the water sector. She has mentored and trained many students from University of Venda and UJ in molecular biology, microbiology techniques for their research projects ranging from undergraduate studies to doctorate studies. She has supervised an honour podiatric student; co-supervised honour's and master's students in Biotechnology. She lectured at UJ at the Faculty of Sciences and Health Science. She was awarded a Technology Innovation Seed fund to develop a mobile water testing laboratory, which was launched in March 2019, she is currently setting up a commercialisation entity within UJ to commercialise her product. Currently works at UJ Process Energy Environment Technology station (PEETS) as a research coordinator in the Water focus area. She projects manages and leads several projects in monitoring water quality on potable and environmental water sources.