



S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)

discussion forum

Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence



NSTF Thematic Session at the 2023 Science Forum South Africa (SFSA)

7 December 2023, 11:00-12:30

When it comes to igniting conversations around science, the [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](http://www.nstf.org.za) is proud of its ongoing collaboration with the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) at the annual Science Forum South Africa (SFSA). The theme for [SFSA 2023](http://www.sf2023.org.za) is 'Igniting Conversations About Science – People, Partnerships, Priorities for the Decadal Plan'.

The NSTF is hosting an in-person thematic session at SFSA on '[Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence](#)' on 7 December 2023 at 11:00.

NSTF Discussion Forum
Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence

Calling stakeholders in science, engineering and the technology community including researchers, decision makers, the public, and higher education

Click here to [register](#).

Background: AI is already used in a multitude of applications and is enabling very useful technologies. However, there are no firmly established ethical codes, standards and regulations yet, there is a limited number of (highly skilled) people who can program for AI technologies, and AI will not assist to create sufficient employment in the economy. There is also concern that AI may render humans useless, influence and/or dominate them. These are some of the issues that were addressed at the previous two events held by the NSTF: [Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence \(18–19 May 2023\)](#) and [UNGA78 Science Summit Panel: Pitfalls of AI \(15 September 2023\)](#). The discussions raised multiple questions and we want to provide platforms for further discussion. A way forward is needed, on how to apply and use AI in a responsible manner, and agree on regulation and codes of conduct/ethics. What can be done to equip people to be more involved? How do we ensure that humans remain in control, and are held accountable?

SFSA sub-theme: The Future of Society – Technology and Democracy: Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies are slowly replacing the norm and at a rapid pace. It is therefore important for people to keep up with the trends and any new developments. This session will provide the public with information, raise awareness of these technologies and offer knowledge to those who lack/seek it. From the discussions we aim to find a way forward and possible salutary recommendations of the negative impacts.

Outputs: As is usual for [NSTF Discussion Forums](#), a media release will be issued which summarises the most important issues and conclusions. The following outputs will also be made available on the event page and through social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)):

- **Video recordings** of speakers' presentations (subject to the speakers' agreement)
- **Presentation slides** (if available and subject to the speakers' agreement)
- **Speakers' biographies** document
- **Useful links**
- **Media interviews:** NSTF will engage the media on possible interviews and/or articles, and post on social media before, during and after the event

NSTF Thematic Session during SFSA: [Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence](#)

Date: 7 December 2023

Time: 11:00-12:30

Venue: [CSIR International Convention Centre](#), Pretoria

Programme: Click [here](#) to see the programme for the session

Biographies: Click [here](#) for the speakers' biographies

Register (in-person event): You must register to participate in-person at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria. You will receive an email confirming the details of the event. Click [here](#) to register.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points: CPD points will be awarded to attendees who are registered with [SACNASP](#) (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions), and those with the [Institute of Professional Engineering Technologists](#) (IPET) (for [ECSA](#) – Engineering Council of South Africa CPD points). For other affiliations, please contact the NSTF office at enquiries@nstf.org.za.

Attendance and participation in this NSTF Thematic Session is FREE to all those interested. Space at the in-person event is limited and on a first come, first serve basis.

(Note: Accommodation and travel for in-person attendance are for your own expense.) Please note that if you do not RSVP, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the NSTF website.

The Science Forum South Africa (SFSA): Across the world nations increasingly seek to harness the potential of science as an instrument for growth and development. Science is also an integral part of the global effort to advance sustainable development. The interface between science and society and the interrogation of the role of science in society has therefore never been more critical.

The SFSA event from 6 to 8 December 2023 is hosted and funded by the DSI. It is designed as a “public science” event open to all interested stakeholders, which provides a platform for discussion and debate on the role of science in South African and African society, as well as globally.

About the NSTF: The NSTF is a non-profit [stakeholder forum](#) representing the SET and innovation community in South Africa. The [membership](#) consists of more than 130 organisations, and ranges from research institutions, universities and state entities to business, [professional societies \(proSET\)](#) and civil society. The NSTF promotes collaboration and critical thinking among a broad range of stakeholders. [NSTF Discussion Forums](#) gather stakeholders together, across the public and private sectors, to exchange knowledge and ideas, and give feedback to government and relevant authorities.

About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995:

- is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa
- gathers stakeholders around burning issues of national and global interest, across the public and private sectors, including matters of public policy
- includes a network of professional societies in SET and STEM education (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics) - the NSTF proSET membership sector.
- recognises, awards and profiles the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation through the prestigious NSTF Awards
- runs and supports collaborative projects and youth outreach, including recognition of top performance in mathematics and science, role modelling, bursary and STEM career information
- runs and supports the STEMulator.org which attracts youth and educators to Explore>Discover>Learn the world of STEM including careers. (Established by NSTF proSET)

For more information

www.nstf.org.za

E-mail: enquiries@nstf.org.za

Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct.

Privacy

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