

SCIENCE JOURNALISM SHORT COURSE
**Building Science Communication
Capacity in the SADC-region
and Africa**

30 November to 2 December 2022
Stellenbosch, South Africa

World Science Forum 2022:

A Forum on the social and economic relevance,
influence and responsibilities of science

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY



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Science journalism short course

Building Science Communication Capacity in the SADC-region and Africa

30 November to 2 December 2022
Stellenbosch, South Africa

In the run up to the World Science Forum, Cape Town, South Africa, 6-9 December 2022

Presented by

Department of Journalism, Stellenbosch University (SU)

In partnership with

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)

National Research Foundation – South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (NRF-SAASTA)

South African Science Journalism Association (SASJA)



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Message from the organisers

Why do we need more science journalists?

We face a critical juncture in journalism in general and in science and technology journalism specifically, the latter having been largely neglected in Africa over decades in journalism newsrooms. With specialist beats diminishing around the world, the space for journalists to do their jobs is closing rapidly – and yet, seldom has the human race faced such a huge need for voices that can explain, demystify, analyse and critique. Fake news abounds – from politics and celebrities to science-based topics on broad health issues such as vaccination, climate change, HIV/Aids and evolution.

Investigative journalists and those on beats such as science and the environment are people trained (on the job or formally) as super fact-checkers and explicators. Facing special needs, great opportunities, and devastating disasters, African countries would benefit from a well-prepared, trained and resourced cohort of journalists to keep both public and policyholders informed. With well-equipped and confident journalists, the public is also empowered to make responsible decisions and comments regarding fake news and misinformation about various issues, as well as instances of pseudoscience and dangerous quackery that could have an impact on their well-being.

Building science journalism capacity in the SADC region

The SADC region recognises the important role and contribution of science, technology and innovation (STI) in political, economic and social development of the region in order to inter alia facilitate industrial development, competitiveness, regional integration and cooperation. Thus promoting science, technology and innovation is one of the broad strategic objectives of the SADC regional integration and cooperation agenda articulated in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–20230. The RISDP 2020–2030 draws impetus from the organisation's Vision 2050, which envisages a *"peaceful, inclusive, competitive middle-to high-income industrialised region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well being, justice and freedom"*.¹ The SADC Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation was adopted in 2008 with an overall objective to foster co-operation and promote, the

development, transfer and mastery of science, technology and innovation in the region.² One of the objectives of the SADC Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation is to "demystify science, technology and innovation by promoting public understanding and awareness and meaningful participation in these disciplines".

The SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap adopted in 2015 aims to achieve innovation driven economies in the region by 2063. The strategy identifies technological upgrading and innovation as enablers for employment creation and competitiveness in the region. The strategy also places science, technology and innovation as key drivers for the region's industrial development and shift to innovation led economies in supporting development in key priority value chains.

It is therefore imperative that a comprehensive and robust regional capacity development programme in science, technology and innovation policy is implemented to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of Member States in advancing national and regional innovation systems.

The SADC Secretariat in partnership with UNESCO and South Africa implemented the first regional capacity building programme in STI policy for senior officials and experts in 2012. This was followed by regional capacity building STI policy workshops for parliamentarians and senior officials in February 2018 and December 2019 respectively. There the SADC Ministers responsible for Education and Science, Technology and Innovation at their meeting in June 2018 in South Africa and June 2019 in Namibia respectively directed the Secretariat in partnership with UNESCO to develop a regional training programme on STI policy and governance for Parliamentarians, senior policy makers and experts. At the Joint Meeting of the SADC Ministers responsible for Education and Training and Science, Technology and Innovation in June 2021, (Decision: 16) the Ministers approved the SADC Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Training Framework. The Ministers also directed the SADC Secretariat in partnership with UNESCO to include in the Framework a focus on capacity building for media and journalist in science communication.

The overall aim of the training programme is to educate and capacitate successive cohorts of journalist in the

1 SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020–2030

2 SADC Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation 2008

region and across the African continent on science communication to advance the awareness and importance of science, technology and innovation for socio-economic development.

From communicating about science to critical engagement with science

In South Africa, the Department of Science and Innovation's Science Engagement Strategy (2015) recommends going beyond the deficit model of science promotion and communication. In other words, members of the public "are not merely passive recipients of science and technology" and we cannot assume that merely communicating science will automatically translate into a more science-literate public. Its vision is, rather: [A] stimulated and engaged South African society that is inspired by and values scientific endeavour, critically engages with key science and technology issues, and participates in a fully representative innovative science and technology workforce" (DSI 2015).

Against this backdrop, the media as watchdog have a critical role to play in terms of enabling, organising and structuring debate, and alerting the public to matters that might otherwise have been ignored.

We trust that, through your participation in this workshop, your capacity, and skills to communicate complex scientific issues will be strengthened. Our aim is to achieve an important public good: an informed and engaged citizenry with access to credible sources of information in a post-factual world.

The WSF offers a unique opportunity for journalists from the SADC region and Africa, interested in science journalism and science communication, to gather in this manner. Not only to learn from the experts, but also to share their own expertise and challenges. In this way, the hosts of the 2022 WSF hope to leave a legacy for future generations that will better equip them to deal with the challenges we face today. We can, and we should, live better on earth.

We look forward working with you this week and beyond, building a community of science journalists in Southern Africa and Africa.

Welcome to the Department of Journalism, Stellenbosch University



The University of Stellenbosch's Department of Journalism has a rich and colourful history that echoes back to the beginning of 1978. The Department of Journalism is conveniently situated on campus in Protea House, a renovated Edwardian building and national monument. Students are provided with an unparalleled working environment as far as scenic beauty and ambience are concerned, allowing them to pursue their studies with the zest it deserves. **We offer cutting-edge training to prepare media professionals for the challenges of the 21st century.**

Overview

Globally, researchers are increasingly aware of the demands to make their work more visible and accessible to diverse public audiences and policymakers, and to create opportunities for public dialogues around issues rooted in science. Science journalists play a pivotal role in building bridges between scientific researchers and the general public, including policymakers. Science journalists are also powerful role players and watchdogs in terms of shaping public consciousness about science-related events.

The objectives of this workshop are to:

- Equip science journalists with creative and innovative ways to make complex science accessible to relevant audiences and the general public;
- Provide guidance for people working in environments where science and research outcomes need to be made accessible to the general public and to science policy audiences; and
- Develop a framework that can be used by other journalists in the member states to carry out science communication.

After completion of the three-day workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify and report on issues facing African countries and the role of scientific researchers in addressing those issues, such as:
 - Health and epidemics
 - Climate change
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - The role of science in national policy and decision-making, including international cooperations and development
 - The role of member states in creating an enabling environment for science and research, including moral support and public recognition of successful performance of scientific researchers.

- Employ specialist skills in reporting on or communicating about science to various audiences and through various mediums, such as how to:
 - Deal with misinformation
 - Distinguish between pseudoscience and credible sources of evidence-based information
 - Use social media to communicate about science
 - Create a podcast
 - Write about science in vernacular languages
 - Negotiate complex ethical dilemmas in science and science journalism
- Join a global network of science journalists and science communication resources.

Assessment

Participants will receive a Stellenbosch University Certificate of Attendance in the short course 'Building Science Communication Capacity in Africa' (course id 5988) after full attendance and participation in the short course, whether in person or online. South African participants can select to receive a hard copy of the certificate. Participants from outside South Africa must please select for a Digital Certificate.

Attendance and participation will be measured in the form of:

- Daily attendance record
- Completion of quizzes/surveys/questions related to the day's content and the prescribed reading material made available via SUNOnline
- Pitch and production of at least one media output (print or electronic) related to the WSF and/or the Science Journalists Programme and saved under your name in the Assignment folder on SUNOnline by 15 December 2022
- Participant evaluation of presenters.

Should you require any further administrative assistance, contact Elizabeth Newman at lnewman@sun.ac.za or the course coordinator Wiida Fourie-Basson at science@sun.ac.za

Programme

Building Science Communication Capacity in the SADC-region and Africa

JC Smuts Auditorium (A203), Stellenbosch University, South Africa

30 November – 2 December 2022

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2022		
Why does Africa need more science journalists?		
09:00-10:00	Registration and collection of course materials	
10:00-10:30	Official welcome	Prof Wim de Villiers, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University
		Anneline Morgan, Senior Programme Officer – Science, Technology and Innovation, Directorate of Industrial Development and Trade (IDT), Southern African Development Community (SADC)
		Dr Martiale Zebaze Kana, Senior Science Programme Specialist and Head Science Unit, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, Zimbabwe
		Buhle Khumalo, Chief Director: Science Communication, Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)
10:30-11:00	Coffee break and group photo	
11:00-12:00	Ice breaker and introduction to science journalism	Coordinated by Wiida Fourie-Basson (SU) and Munyaradzi Makoni (freelance science journalist)
		Special guest speakers: Prof Nox Makunga, Department of Botany and Zoology, Stellenbosch University Dr Thifhelimbilu Daphney Bucher, nuclear physicist and senior lecturer, Department of Electrical Electronics and Computer Engineering, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
12:00-12:30	Why are we here? Where are we going? Who decides?	Wiida Fourie-Basson, Department of Journalism and media officer, Faculty of Science, Stellenbosch University
12:30-13:00	DSI: Science communication strategy	Buhle Khumalo, Chief Director: Science Communication, Department of Science and Innovation
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	Afro-relationality as a conceptual framework for climate change communication in Africa	Dr Dominic Okoliko, postgraduate fellow, School for Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University
15:00-16:00	Machine Learning and Data Science Africa Network (via MSTeams)	Prof Vukosi Marivate, ABSA Chair of Data Science, Data science for social impact research group, University of Pretoria

DAY 2: THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2022**Burning issues for science journalists in Africa**

9:00-10:00	How to differentiate between science and pseudoscience	Dr Nathan Geffen, editor-in-chief of GroundUp and director of the Centre for Science and Technology Mass Communication, Department of Journalism, SU
10:00-10:30	A journalist's perspective on scientific freedom	Dr Nathan Geffen, activist, Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12:00	Communicating key messages in health sciences for the SADC region	Dr Ebrahim Samodien, science writer and editor, South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)
12:00-13:00	Anti-African bias in the African media	Dr Sisanda Nkoala, senior lecturer, Media Department, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Tips from the coal face	Breakaway groups facilitated by Mandi Smallhorne, Sibusiso Biyela, Munyaradzi Makoni, Wiida Fourie-Basson
15:30-16:00	Report back from breakaway groups	

DAY 3: FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 2022**Specialist skills in science journalism**

9:00-10:00	Reporting on climate change from a social justice perspective	Tunica Phillips, climate change and economic justice reporter, <i>Mail & Guardian</i>
10:00-10:30	The role of science journalism in effective STI policy implementation	Juliette Muthey-Asego, Science for Africa Foundation
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12:00	Getting started with pod casts	Nicola Bruns, freelance journalist and consultant
12:00-13:00	Science communication, vernacular languages, Artificial Intelligence and the Masakhane project	Sibusiso Biyela, digital science communicator
12:30-13:00	Democratisation of science communication: A case study of indigenous languages and community media in South Africa	Zamuxolo Matiwana, coordinator of the Science Journalism Community Service Project, South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA)
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:30	Finding and writing science stories: navigating the World Science Forum programme	Department of Science and Innovation
14:30-16:00	Wrap-up, evaluation and the way forward	Facilitated by Munyaradzi Makoni, Mandi Smallhorne, Sibusiso Biyela, Wiida Fourie-Basson

Facilitators



Sibusiso Biyela

Sibusiso is a digital science communicator at ScienceLink where he helps scientists and research institutions make their work accessible to the public. He is a writer at SciBraai, a science news website that tells South African science news to discuss around the braai. Sibusiso is a researcher and partner on the Masakhana Decolonise Science project attempting to make science more accessible in Africa by translating it into six African languages using artificial intelligence (AI) technology. He is also a co-producer and co-host of the Ilukuluku podcast which discusses scientific topics in isiZulu.



Wiida Fourie-Basson

Wiida is an experienced science communicator and science journalism trainer, currently working as science writer and media officer for the Faculty of Science at Stellenbosch University. Previous work experience include writing for News24, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and 15 years of training journalism students in the Department of Journalism at Tshwane University of Technology, and recently as part-time specialist lecturer in science journalism at Stellenbosch University. She holds an MA (Communication) (*cum laude*) from UNISA, a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Ethics from Stellenbosch University (*cum laude*) and is currently pursuing an MPhil in environmental ethics.



Munyaradzi Makoni

Munya is an award-winning journalist with more than 15 years of experience in science journalism. He specialises in story-driven science journalism for a range of national and international publications, including *University World News*, *Africa in Fact*, *Eos*, *Hakai magazine*, *Inter Press Service*, *Mongabay*, *Nature*, *Nature Africa*, *Physics World*, *The Lancet*, *The Scientist*, *Down to Earth*, *The Tablet*, *Science*, *Wired UK* and *SciDev.Net*. In 2019, one of his features for the Thompson Reuters Foundation won the best Africa Feature award. He holds a Diploma in Communication and Journalism from the Christian College of Southern Africa and has attended and completed various courses with the World Bank, the Nordic SADC Journalism School, the University of Cape Town and the Hogeschool van Utrecht. As science journalist he has attended, amongst others, the World Conference of Science Journalists (2019) and the Next Einstein Forum Global Gathering in Rwanda (2018) and Senegal (2016).



Mandi Smallhorne

Mandi is a freelance science journalist and president of the South African Science Journalists' Association (SASJA) and vice-president of the World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ). With more than twenty years of experience in media and journalism, Mandi has developed and presented training courses and workshops in South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana and Namibia on media, science journalism, climate change and biodiversity. Twice a year, she presents a two-day course on science and science journalism for intern journalists on a SAASTA-programme. She was a presenter at the pioneering Summit on Pseudoscience and Quackery hosted by the Department of Journalism at Stellenbosch University in 2017. She came up with the slogan now often used by the WFSJ: "Science journalists are the ultimate fact-checkers".

Presenters



Nicola Bruns

Nicola is a passionate communications, change management futurist and critical thinking skills professional involved, at the same time, in a range of science communication activities and contexts. After seven years as executive producer for the Cape Talk Afternoon Drive Show, and six years as part-time specialist lecturer in the Department of Journalism at Stellenbosch University, Nicola is now employed as the marketing and media manager for the Division of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. She is also media coordinator for UNITAR's One Ocean Hub, and does freelance and consulting work for Primedia Broadcasting, UNITAR, RIIS, JB Publications, The Giraffe Brand, Endore, SANSA and UCT. She holds an MA in Media Studies from Stellenbosch University, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Future Studies (*cum laude*) from the University of Stellenbosch Business School.



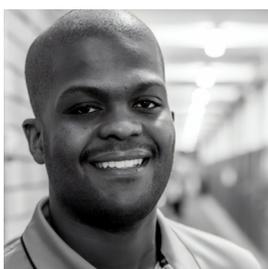
Dr Nathan Geffen

Nathan is a journalist and founder of GroundUp, a media platform for human rights journalism. In 2018 he was awarded a PhD from the University of Cape Town. His thesis considered different algorithms for speeding up the simulation of sexually transmitted infections. He was one of the leaders of the HIV/Aids advocacy group, the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC). He started a website, called Quackdown, dedicated to debunking untested medical claims, as well as TB Online, a website reporting the latest news and activism related to tuberculosis. He is the author of *Debunking Delusions*, which tells the story of how the TAC struggled against state-supported AIDS denialism and quackery in South Africa.



Buhle Khumalo

Buhle is the Chief Director: Science Communication responsible for editing, media liaison, marketing and events, and speechwriting and research in the Department of Science and Innovation. She also serves in the Ethics, Information Technology, Executive (Exco) and Operational Committees. She has extensive previous experience as a relationship manager in the financial sector. In this regard, a credit card for the consumer market was delivered, based on her MBA dissertation research conducted in 2014-2015. This was preceded by a career in journalism, with the last job held in 2000 at the Independent Newspapers (*The Star*), which entailed initiating content, investigating news pieces and maintaining a strong network.



Prof Vukosi Marivate

Prof Vukosi Marivate is the ABSA UP Chair of Data Science at the University of Pretoria and an Associate Professor of Computer Science. Vukosi works on developing Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence methods to extract insights from data. A large part of his work over the last few years has been in the intersection of Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing. Vukosi's work in this area focuses on techniques to improve tools for and availability of data for local languages or low resource languages. He currently serves as a chief investigator on the Masakhane NLP project (www.masakhane.io) and on the steering committee of the Lacuna Fund (<https://lacunafund.org>). As part of his vision for Data Science, Vukosi is interested in Data Science for Social Impact (<https://dsfsi.github.io>), using local challenges as a springboard for research. In this area, Vukosi has worked on projects in science, energy, public safety and utilities. Vukosi is a co-founder of the Deep Learning Indaba, the largest Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence workshop on the African continent, aiming to strengthen African Machine Learning.



Zamuxolo Matiwana

Zamuxolo was born and bred in Makhanda in the Eastern Cape Province. He studied Journalism at the Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha (formerly known as Port Elizabeth). He later worked as a journalist and freelance journalist in Gqeberha before crossing the floor to communication. In 2007, he obtained a postgraduate diploma in journalism studies from Rhodes University. He is currently pursuing an MA in science journalism in the Department of Journalism at Stellenbosch University. He is passionate about indigenous languages and the role that they can play in making science communication accessible in South Africa. He hopes to continue contributing in this area in the future in various roles. He is currently working for the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, a business unit of the National Research Foundation and the leading Science Journalism Community Service Project.



Juliette Muthey-Asego

Juliette leads the Corporate and Science Communication unit at the Science for Africa Foundation (SFA Foundation). Over the last decade she has championed the development of an engaging and compelling science in Africa brand through developing and implementing a Pan-African science communication and digital strategy that leverages on the unique strengths of African scientists aiming to achieve Africa's ambitious targets for research and innovation growth. Previously, she worked as a communication, media and advocacy specialist at PATH providing strategic communication leadership and technical assistance to the Kenyan Ministry of Health, the Management Sciences for Health (MSH) leading deliberate communication initiatives and training to strengthen internal and external communications capacity and at the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) as the Science Communication and Policy specialist involved in designing and implementing a communication and policy dialogue program. Juliette holds a Master's in Science Communication from Imperial College London and an Honours and bachelor's in biomedical sciences from Monash University Australia. She has a background in osteoarthritis and malaria research. She was in 2020 included on the Global Women in Marketing (WiM) list of hidden stars, pioneers and future leaders who are influencing and shaping the marketing and communications community. In 2021, she was amongst the top ten finalists of the BBC international podcast competition. A creative at heart, Juliette is passionate about development and science communication in Africa and ensuring African scientists are well facilitated and supported to increase their visibility and that of their science.



Dr Sisanda Nkoala

Sisanda is a senior lecturer in the Media Department at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. She is a former award-winning journalist with expertise in media and education, crime and justice, gender, multilingualism and multiculturalism. She completed her PhD in rhetoric studies through the University of Cape Town's Centre for Rhetoric Studies where she looked at television news reports on crime and justice. She is a 2022 South African Digital Languages Resources Open Education Resource Champion for her work on Digitising the Early South African Black Press. Beyond the academy she serves on the board of Brand South Africa and as a public representative on the South African Press Council.



Dr Dominic Ayegba Okoliko

Dominic is an environmental communication researcher and a postdoctoral fellow at the School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University. His research focuses on the intersection between communication, public sensemaking, and sustainability practice. Dominic has published works on governance and climate change communication in the *Journal of Media Ethics*, *African Journalism Studies*, and the *Journal of Public Affairs*. He has also participated in transnational and local conversations on the environment, climate change and the media. His works typically draw on multiple perspectives, consistent with his multidisciplinary academic background in the arts, social sciences, and development studies. Before joining the Stellenbosch University community as a DAAD scholar in June 2018, Dominic worked in the civil society sector where he led a human rights organization in eastern Nigeria. To date, he maintains an interest in social activism which he now advances through regular contributions of opinion pieces on popular media.



Tunicia Phillips

Tunicia is an award winning journalist with a career spanning over twelve years in radio, print and television. Having spent eight years in radio, she moved on to join the *Mail & Guardian* as an economic justice reporting fellow focused on climate change and business last year. Her career in radio began as a volunteer at a community radio station, Eldos FM where she now serves as chair of the board of directors. Reporting on energy, climate change, environment and extractive industries are among her specialties, but she is also known to produce cutting-edge work on organised crime, policing and corruption; and a reputation for navigating hostile environments. When she is not field producing for the BBC, China Global Television Network (CGTN) or stringing for print, she now spends her time facilitating, designing and conducting workshops and training to capacitate and deepen reporting on climate change, decarbonisation and other Net Zero related topics on the continent. Her debut non-fiction title under Pan Macmillan is due for release in 2023. The Wits University's Henry Nxumalo investigative journalism fund supports this work.



Dr Ebrahim Samodien

Ebrahim currently holds the position of Science Writer and Editor at the South African Medical Research Council. In this role he is involved in research translation, one of the key strategic goals of the organization. He holds a PhD in Plant Biotechnology from Stellenbosch University, where his project involved molecular biology and genetic engineering. Ebrahim's research interests include diseases of lifestyle, nutrition and nutraceuticals, neurogenesis, and natural medicine, with a keen focus on holistic wellness. He is also a certified Life Coach Practitioner and self-published author, with his maiden work entitled *Book of the Bees*.

Special guest speakers



Dr Thifhelimbilu Daphney Bucher

Dr. Thifhelimbilu Daphney Bucher is a nuclear scientist focusing on fundamental research and a lecturer at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology at the Department of Electrical Electronics and Computer Engineering (CPUT). She graduated with a Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from Stellenbosch University in 2012. She completed three years of postdoctoral research at iThemba LABS working on a project that seeks to develop the technique of gamma-radiation tracking. After her postdoc, she was awarded a five years Research Career Award by NRF to further her research in experimental nuclear physics. In 2019, she received an NRF-rating in the category of young upcoming researcher. She conducts research in the field of experimental nuclear physics and focuses on understanding the structures of the excited nuclei in the nuclei mass region between $A = 160$ and 170 . As a result of understanding such phenomena, she believes that we can gain a lot of insight into our origin and how our universe works. Also, the application of fundamental knowledge of nuclear physics is diverse and has a direct impact on our lives as it can save lives and can make us feel safe. She is passionate and enjoys participating in outreach events where she communicates her research to the public inspiring and motivating youth to pursue careers in science.



Prof Martiale Zebaze Kana

Martiale is an experimental physicist and researcher with extensive experience in STEM education and renewable energy. He is currently the head of science, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa. He was previously the Chief of Section, Innovation and Capacity Building in Science and engineering at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris where he also served as executive secretary of the International Basic Science Programme. Prior to joining UNESCO in 2017, he was the Deputy Provost, College of Engineering and Technology, Kwara State University, Nigeria. He also held the UNESCO chair in alternative energy at the same institution. Martiale has been a visiting professor at many universities. His research focuses on experimental studies of inorganic, organic and hybrid devices with special interest in devices on flexible or stretchable substrates in the field of renewable energy. He holds a PhD in experimental solid-state physics.



Prof Nokwanda Makunga

Nokwanda is a professor in the Department of Botany and Zoology at Stellenbosch University. Her research is centred around using a multidirectional approach that combines the areas of biotechnology, ethnopharmacology and phytochemistry. During her tenure at SU, she established the area of medicinal plant biotechnology. In her research group, they use cutting edge multi-omics technologies where they try and understand plants from the genetic level through to their responses to the environment to allow production of quality assured, economically suitable phytopharmaceuticals. She also has an interest in people-plant interactions and so her research is also focused on medicinal plants, their cultural significance and opportunities presented for socioeconomic development. In 2011, I was a recipient of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Annual Award under the category Distinguished Young Black Researcher (Female), TW Kambule NRF award for 2011/12. Recent awards include the Fulbright Fellowship and in 2022 she was a finalist in the NSTF Awards for science communication. She is a founding member of the social advocacy movement founded in 2020 (Black Botanists Week) that seeks to promote Black botanists, globally, whether they be formally or informally trained.



Anneline Morgan

As of June 2019 Anneline assumed the role of Senior Programme Officer responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) at the SADC Secretariat under the Directorate for Industrial Development and Trade. During the periods 2014-2019, Anneline was seconded to SADC Secretariat as the Senior Technical Advisor: STI, by the South African Government through the Department of Science and Technology (DST), where she was responsible for facilitating and coordinating regional STI policies, strategies and programmes in support of SADC Member States. Prior to her Secondment to the SADC Secretariat, she held the position of Director: Africa Cooperation at the South African DST (2007-2014), where she was responsible for managing international engagements and partnerships with African countries in the area of science and technology. From 2003-2007 she held the position of Deputy Director Strategic Partnerships (DST–South Africa) focusing on South Africa–Europe cooperation in STI. Anneline has many years of experience in championing regional and international cooperation in the area of science, technology and innovation, which has resulted in the initiation of several regional, continental and international initiatives, programmes, and projects.

RESOURCES

Online scicomm communities

Science Communication Africa, Facebook group -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/scicomafrika/?mibextid=HsNCOg>

Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST) network -

www.pcst.network

South African Science Journalists' Association (SASJA), Facebook page -

<https://www.facebook.com/SASJA.Science/>

Science Journalism Forum - <https://sciencejf.com/>

Online courses

#Scicomm online, South African Research Chair in Science Communication,

Stellenbosch University - [https://www0.sun.ac.za/scicom/scicomm-](https://www0.sun.ac.za/scicom/scicomm-online/2022-course/)

[online/2022-course/](https://www0.sun.ac.za/scicom/scicomm-online/2022-course/)

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