

7th Annual National Research Data Workshop 2025

Venue: CSIR International Conference Centre - Ruby Auditorium

Date: 2 - 3 July 2025

02 July 2025	Speaker	Topic/Activity
07:30 – 08:30 AM	Arrival, Registration and Refreshments.	
08:30 – 08:35 AM	Programme Director; Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Data Librarian; Dr Louise Patterton.	Welcoming.
08:35 – 08:45 AM	National Integrated Cyberinfrastructure System (NICIS) Centre Manager; Dr Happy Sithole.	NICIS and Cyberinfrastructure Overview.
08:45 – 08:55 AM	Next Generation Enterprises and Institutions (NGEI) Executive Cluster Manager; Dr Lulama Wakaba.	Opening by NGEI ECM.
08:55 – 09:15 AM	The Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) Deputy Director, Cyberinfrastructure; Mr Daniel Mokhohlane.	DSTI Opening Comments.
09:15 – 09:35 AM	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) Director; Dr More Manda.	Update on Data Infrastructure.
09:35 – 09:55 AM	The South African National Research Network (SANReN) Director; Mr Sabelo Dlamini.	Update on Network Infrastructure.
09:55 – 10:15 AM	The Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC) Director; Mr Mervyn Christoffels.	Update on Computing Infrastructure.
10:15 – 10:35 AM	BREAK	
10:35 – 10:55 AM	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) Data Stewardship Manager; Dr Nobubele Shoji.	About DIRISA HCD.

10:55 – 11:15 AM	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) Data Services & App Manager; Dr Katlego Phoshoko.	The South African Research Data Commons: An Implementation of DIRISA.
11:15 – 11:55 PM	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) Senior Software Developer; Mr May Maile, Mr Hlawulani Sibisi, Mr Elias Sepuru, Ntlharhi Baloyi.	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) Services.
11:55 – 12:15 PM	South African National Research Network (SANReN) Researcher & Engineer; Dr Kasandra Pillay.	Update on NICIS 100Gbps Data Transfer Services.

12:15 – 13:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK

13:00 – 13:20 PM	University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) School of Physics; Prof Bruce Mellado.	AI-powered Technology Transfer from the SA-CERN Program.
13:20 – 13:40 PM	University of Fort Hare (UFH) Computer Science Lecturer; Prof Nobert Jere.	Bridging the Data Divide: Towards a Clean Dataset Portal for Southern Africa's Machine Learning Future.
13:40 – 14:00 PM	University of Pretoria (UP) Data Curation Officer; Ms Rosina Ramokgola & Mr Tlou Mathiba.	Integrating Research Data Repository with Altmetric, Dimensions, and ORCID: increasing research visibility and impact voltage.
14:00– 14:20 PM	Altron Chief Technology Officer; Dr Bongani Mabaso.	AI Factory.
14:20 – 14:40 PM	University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) Library Director; Dr Daisy Selematsela & Associate Director; Mr Lazarus Matizirofa.	Implementation of the Wits Data Vault (repository) as part of ensuring digital cooperation: a case of University of the Witwatersrand.
14:40 – 15:00 PM	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Information & Cyber Security Centre Researcher; Mr Ross Holder.	National Policy Data Observatory (NPDO).

15:00 – 15:20 PM

BREAK

15:20 – 15:40 PM	Founder, Chairperson, and President of the Pan African Information Communication Technology Association (PAICTA); Mr Sonwabo Mdwaba.	Empowering Africa's Digital Future: Advancing Data Literacy and Sovereignty in Rural and Peri-Rural Communities. (Online)
15:40 – 16:00 PM	Digital Transformation Centre (DTC) Senior Technical Advisor - Data Economy Data Governance in Africa Initiative; Mr. Mulalo Mphidi.	The Future of Data and Management.

16:00 – 16:15 PM	Programme Director; Dr Louise Patterson.	Wrap Up Day 1.
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07:30 – 09:00	Arrival, Registration and Refreshments.	
09:00 – 09:15	Programme Director; Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Data Librarian; Dr Louise Patterson.	Welcoming.
09:15 – 09:45	UAE, HCT Academic Program Chair; Dr More Chinakidzwa.	Data Sovereignty Practices among African Academic Researchers and Local Communities. (Online)
09:45 – 10:15	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) Lecturer; Mrs Mosima Masethe.	Developing a Word Sense Disambiguation Dataset for Sesotho sa Leboa: Manual Annotation and Authentic Text Sources.

10:15 – 10:45

BREAK

10:45– 11:15	Sandile Buthelezi.	Denied Data Access: The Real Issue for Researchers and Innovators.
11:15 – 11:45	University of Johannesburg (UJ) PhD Fellow; Mr Musa JAITEH.	The Status of Machine Learning in HIV Testing in South Africa: A Qualitative Study Among Stakeholders in Gauteng Province.
11:45 – 12:15	University of Johannesburg (UJ) Post Doctoral Research Fellow; Dr Claris Siyamayambo.	Factors associated with Sexually transmitted infection literacy among men who have sex with men and transgender men and women in Soweto: A machine learning approach.

12:15 – 13:00

LUNCH BREAK

13:00 – 13:30	University of the Witwatersrand (WITS): Bongzi Mphuti, Pfano Makhera.	The analytics on the global impact of the University of Witwatersrand research datasets.
13:30 – 14:00	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Cybersecurity Researchers; Bheki Cossa, Siphelele Myaka and Lethukuthula Khumalo.	Data driven analysis of National Public Key Infrastructure frameworks across cybersecurity-leading countries.

14:00 – 14:30	Digital Scholarship and Data Curation Manager: First Coast Technologies (Pty) Ltd; Mr Niklas Zimmer.	Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Data Management in Digitisation Projects.
14:30 – 15:00	University of Mpumalanga (UMP) Chair: Research and Innovation Acting Program Leader School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences; Dr Olalekan Samuel Ogunleye.	Designing an Adaptive Privacy-Preserving Access Control Framework for Ensuring Data. Confidentiality Across Complex Regulatory Environments.

15:00 – 15:30

BREAK

15:30 – 16:00	Walter Sisulu University (WSU) IT Academic: Ms Nosipho Mavuso.	A Big Data-Driven Framework to Enhance Student Success in Higher Education. (Online)
16:00 – 16:30	Programme Director; Dr Louise Patterton.	Wrap Up Day 2 and Vote of thanks.