

8TH Annual DIRISA National Research Data Workshop



THEME

Enhancing Technologies for
Data-Driven Development for Africa

Date: 1 – 2 July

Location: CSIR ICC

PROGRAMME

Day 1		
Time	Session	Speaker and Topic
🕒 [07:30 – 08:30]	Arrival, Registration and Refreshments.	
🕒 [08:30 – 08:40]	Programme Director; (ASSAF); Mrs Ina Smith.	Welcoming.
🕒 [08:40 – 09:00]	CSIR Group Executive : Smart Society ; Dr Sandile Malinga.	Opening by Smart Society Group Executive.
🕒 [09:00 – 09:20]	Deputy Director: Cyber Infrastructure Department of Science, Technology and Innovation; Dr Daniel Mokhohlane	Opening by DSTI.
🕒 [09:20 – 09:40]	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) Director; Dr More Manda.	Opening by DIRISA.
🕒 [09:40 – 10:00]	The South African National Research Network (SANReN) Director; Dr Sabelo Dlamini.	Opening by SANReN.
🕒 [10:00 – 10:20]	The Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC) Director; Mr Mervyn Christoffels.	Opening by CHPC.
Break (30min)		
🕒 [10:50 – 11:10]	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) Data Services and Applications Manager; Dr Katlego Phoshoko.	About DIRISA HCD.

AN INITIATIVE OF:

MANAGED BY:

🕒 [11:10 – 11:30]	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) Senior Software Developer; Mr Elias Sepuru.	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) Services.
🕒 [11:30 – 11:50]	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA); Dr Sthembiso Mkhwanazi and Ms Zandile Zungu	IDW 2027 Announcement and Update
🕒 [11:50 – 12:10]	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Information & Cyber Security Centre Researcher; Mr Sifiso Mgaga.	National Policy Data Observatory (NPDO).
🕒 [12:10 – 12:30]	SAWS Climate Service Senior Manager; Dr Dawn Mahlobo	The Climate Change Act: SAWS Participation.
Lunch Break (40min)		
🕒 [13:10 – 13:30]	Walter Sisulu University (WSU) Lecturer; Dr Nosipho Mavuso.	AI-Powered Data Literacy for the Next Generation of Researchers: Rethinking Research Skills Development in Higher Education.
🕒 [13:30 – 13:50]	Altron Digital Business Solution Architect & Presales Engineer; Ben Steyn	Storage for the AI-Driven Era.
🕒 [13:50 – 14:10]	Africa Quest Software; Senior Sales Engineer, Albert Truter	From Data Chaos to Trusted Intelligence: Enabling End-to-End Data Governance
🕒 [14:10 – 14:30]	The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA); Dr Nobubele Shozi.	Securing Research Infrastructure for Digital Innovation and Scientific Excellence.
🕒 [14:30 – 14:50]	University of Botswana (UB); Lecturer, Dr Dennis Mabalane.	Strengthening Academic Integrity and Research Data Governance through AI-Enhanced Turnitin Integration in Moodle LMS: A Case Study of the University of Botswana.
🕒 [14:50 – 15:10]	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU); Mrs Mosima Masethe.	An Explainable Attention-Based Deep Learning Framework for Breast Cancer Classification with Hyperparameter Tuning and Ablation Studies.
🕒 [15:10 – 15:30]	University of Johannesburg (UJ); Tselane Moahloli.	Evaluating the effects of paper-based reporting systems on safety and data management in South African gold mines.
🕒 [15:30 – 15:50]	Mabalane University of the Witwatersrand (WITS); Edward Nkadimeng.	An AIoT Platform for Real-Time Community Air Quality Monitoring and Population Health Surveillance in Sub-Saharan Africa.
🕒 [15:50 – 16:00]	Programme Director; Mrs Ina Smith.	Wrap Up Day 1.

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Day 2		
Time	Session	Speaker and Topic
🕒 [08:30 – 09:00]	Arrival, Registration and Refreshments.	
🕒 [09:00 – 09:20]	Programme Director; (ASSAF); Mrs Ina Smith.	Welcoming.
🕒 [09:20 – 09:30]	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Dr Arnold Stephanie and Mabitsela, Kwena.	Pros and Cons of Public–Sector Data Sharing Partnerships: Lessons from a Climate Resilience Collaboration in South Africa. (Online)
🕒 [09:30 – 09:50]	University of Pretoria (UP) Post Doctoral Research Fellow; Dr Claris Siyamayambo.	The Impact of Spatial Connectivity Structures on Model Fit, Inference, and Data Integration in Spatial Epidemiology and Wastewater-Based Epidemiology: A Systematic Review.
🕒 [09:50 – 10:10]	Tshwane University of Technology (TUT); Dr Hlaudi Masethe.	A Retrieval-Based NLP Chatbot for Setswana Proverbs and Idioms Interpretation Using TF-IDF and Cosine Similarity.
Break (30min)		
🕒 [10:40 – 11:00]	University of Eswatini; Lecturer, Isabel Linda Zulu-Moyo	Cyber Risk Intelligence Dashboard Framework for Regulatory Decision-Making in the Telecommunications Sector. (Online)
🕒 [11:00 – 11:20]	National University of Lesotho (NUL); Mamoqenelo Morolong	A Systematic Review of Cyber Resilience of African Higher Learning Institutions:

		Safeguarding Research Data and Student Data.
🕒 [11:20 – 11:40]	The South African National Research Network (SANReN); Cybersecurity Engineer, Zoya Vilakazi and Senior Engineer, Heloise Meyer	South African National Research and Education Network Cyber Threat Landscape: A Current Perspective.
🕒 [11:40 – 12:00]	University of Pretoria (UP) Data Scientist; Rosina Ramokgola Mankaleme	Integrating DMPTool into institutional research support services: enhancing research data management practices.
🕒 [12:00 – 12:20]	The South African National Research Network (SANReN); Senior Software Engineer, Moeletji Semanya	From Data-Driven to Data-Informed: Rethinking Service Development for African Research Data Infrastructures
Lunch Break (40min)		
🕒 [13:00 – 13:20]	University of Pretoria (UP); Senior Systems Analyst, Bonza Majazi	Building a Privacy-Preserving Conversational Data Infrastructure to Advance African Language Technologies and Data Sovereignty.
🕒 [13:20 – 13:40]	South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR), North-West University; Benito Trollip and Michelle White	What influences language resource reuse? The SADiLaR repository as a case study.
🕒 [13:40 – 14:00]	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU), Research Associate and Senior Data Scientist; Mr Sandile J Buthelezi.	Data Sovereignty - The African Mint.
🕒 [14:00 – 14:20]	University of Mpumalanga (UMP); ICT Lecturer, Sibusiso Charlie Ndlovu	AI-Enabled Adaptive Cybersecurity Governance model for Multi-Campus Higher Education Institutions in South Africa: A Proactive Approach to POPIA.
🕒 [14:20 – 14:40]	Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Deputy Director: Research; Getrude Sadiki.	Rethinking Research Data Repositories: Lessons from Public Sector Knowledge Management.
🕒 [14:40 – 15:00]	Chisquares, Chief Operations Officer (COO); Ms Nkosi, Lungile.	Beyond Data Collection: Building Integrated Research Infrastructure for Data-Driven Development in Africa
🕒 [15:00 – 15:20]	University of Fort Hare (UFH) Computer Science Lecturer; Prof Nobert Jere.	A Data Sovereignty Model for Secure Cloud Governance and Critical National Infrastructure to Reclaim Africa's Digital Assets
🕒 [15:20 – 15:30]	Programme Director; Mrs Ina Smith.	Wrap Up Day 2 and Vote of thanks.