SEFAKO MAKGATHO HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

International Open Access Week

INTERNATIONAL OPEN ACCESS WEEK 2026

THEME: The Cost of Knowledge

22 OCTOBER 2026 | **Protea Hotel Fire & Ice! Pretoria, Menlyn** | **08:00 - 13:00**

Programme Director: Ms. K. Kgarosi

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC
08:00 - 08:55		**Registration - Tea and coffee**
09:00 - 09:15	Dr. E. Nesamvuni (SMU)	Opening and welcome
09:15 - 10:00	Prof. C. Baker (SMU)	Keynote speaker
10:00 - 10:25	Dr. J.C. Maleka Majika (UP)	The cost of knowledge: Perspective on the costs, benefits, and equity implications of open-access and subscription publishing
10:25 - 10:50	Prof. K.A. Rakubu (TUT)	Knowledge inequity: How exorbitant paywalls and fees exclude individuals and institutions from equitable participation in science and research
10: 50 -11:10	Elsevier	Sponsored presentation
11:10 - 11:25		**Comfort break**
11:25 - 11:50	Prof. E. Benyera (UNISA)	The $1.5 Billion gift: On academia`s reliance on free peer review
11:50 -12:15	Prof. L.M. Seheri (SMU)	Environmental & resource costs
12:15 -12:35	WWIS	Sponsored presentation
12:35 -12:40	SMU Library Virtual Tour	
12:40 - 13:00	Ms. S. Kunene	Closing remarks
		Lunch

Tshwane University of Technology
We empower people

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

UNISA university of south africa

Sabinet
Facilitating access to information

WWIS

Mc Graw Hill

EBSCO

BIOGRAPHIES:

Prof. Chantelle Baker

Chantélle Baker is Associate Professor and Director of the African Centre for Bioimaging/ Electron Microscope Unit (research core facility), that provides centralised diagnostic service rendering and multi-disciplinary research support to university staff, students and external users. Her PhD in Hand-and Microsurgery, focused on ultrastructure of neuromuscular junctions from the hand - and forearm in primates using high-resolution- and cryo-electron microscopy techniques.

Her research interest is in pathology caused by incidental nanoparticles (unintended ultrafine byproducts of human activities or industrial processes, with characteristically high variability, composition, and irregular shapes). Micro-and nanoplastics have further emerged as pollutants posing a significant threat to life and the environment due to bioaccumulation and biomagnification. Her experience in high-resolution electron microscopy and advanced preparation techniques, have culminated in five National Equipment Programme (NEP) grants from the Department of Science and Innovation in partnership with the National Research Foundation to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for the University.

After joining the Research Ethics Committee as representative from the School of Pathology and Pre-Clinical Sciences several years ago, she has become an eager scholar of ethics. Through the Ethics Committee she was nominated to do a Postgraduate Diploma in International Research Ethics at the Bioethics Centre of the University of Cape Town. This diploma course was part of the International Research Ethics Network of Southern Africa (IRENSA) sponsored by the Fogarty Institute and the National Institutes of Health, USA. In 2015, she attended the first UNESCO Ethics Teacher Training Course held in South Africa at the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics, University of the Witwatersrand. Chantélle has been the Chairperson of the Human Research Ethics Committee since 2020.

Dr. Jean-Claude Malela Majika

Jean-Claude Malela Majika obtained his BSc (Honours) degree in Mathematical Statistics from the High Institute of Statistics from the D.R. Congo, Honours and Master's degrees in Statistics from the University of Pretoria, and a PhD in Statistics from the University of South Africa. He is currently working as a Senior lecturer at the University of Pretoria in the Department of Statistics and he is a member of the South African Statistical Association, the International Statistical Institute (ISI), and the Institute of Certificated and Chartered Statisticians of South Africa (ICCSSA). His principal research interests include statistical process/quality control, nonparametric tests, distribution theory and Statistical inference.

Prof. Kholofelo Annah Rakubu

Professor Kholofelo Annah Rakubu is an Associate Professor, accomplished criminologist, researcher and higher-education leader, currently serving as Assistant Dean: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies in the Faculty of Humanities at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). She has more than two decades of academic experience spanning teaching, research, postgraduate supervision, academic leadership, research management and institutional governance.

Her academic career began at the University of Limpopo, where she progressed through the academic ranks from Junior Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. She subsequently joined the University of Fort Hare, where she served as Head of the Department of Criminology, before moving to the University of Venda, where she served as Head of Criminal Justice and later became Vice-Dean in the School of Law. At TUT, she continued her leadership trajectory as Head of the Department of

Law, Safety and Security Management before assuming her current role as Assistant Dean Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies.

Professor Rakubu holds a PhD in Criminology, a Master of Arts in Criminology, a Master of Public Administration, Honours in Criminology, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education, among other qualifications. Her scholarly contributions include peer-reviewed publications, postgraduate supervision, national and international conference presentations, academic mentorship and research capacity development. Her research interests span criminology, criminal justice, policing, community safety, victimisation and organised crime.

In her current leadership portfolio, Professor Rakubu champions research excellence, innovation, postgraduate success, research productivity and scholarly publication. She is particularly committed to strengthening opportunities for emerging researchers and postgraduate students to produce, publish and disseminate impactful scholarship. Her academic and leadership journey gives her a valuable perspective on knowledge inequity, publication costs, access to scholarly information and the structural barriers that limit equitable participation in global knowledge production, particularly for researchers and institutions operating in resource-constrained environments.

Beyond academia, Professor Rakubu has established a strong profile in community engagement, public scholarship and evidence-informed policy development. She regularly contributes her criminological expertise to public and stakeholder engagements on policing, crime prevention, community safety, gender-based violence, organised crime and criminal justice reform. She is a sought-after media analyst and columnist, providing criminological analysis and commentary on contemporary crime and justice matters across South African media platforms. Her ability to translate complex research and criminal justice developments into accessible public discourse has strengthened the interface between academic scholarship, communities, policymakers and the media.

Her expertise has also extended into strategic advisory and policy spaces, including serving in an advisory capacity within the Presidency on criminal justice matters and providing expert advice to the Gauteng community safety portfolio.

Through these engagements, her research and professional inputs have contributed to discussions and reviews of policies and approaches relating to community safety, policing and the broader criminal justice system. Professor Rakubu is furthermore a sought-after independent criminologist in criminal justice proceedings, including the preparation of criminological pre-sentencing reports and expert assessments for courts. This applied work reflects her ability to integrate criminological theory, empirical evidence, offender and victim considerations, rehabilitation, risk assessment and the objectives of sentencing in assisting courts with evidence-informed decision-makin

Prof. Everisto Benyera

Everisto Benyera is a Professor of African Politics in the Department of Political Science at the University of South Africa in Pretoria. He is a decolonial scholar whose research focuses on transitology and transitional justice, emphasising indigenous, traditional, and non-state mechanisms for reconciliation, peacebuilding, and healing. With 22 book chapters and 25 peer-reviewed journal articles to his name, he has made significant contributions to the field. His notable books include The Political Legacy of Colonialism in Zimbabwe: Implications for Justice and Elections in Africa (2024, Routledge); The Failure of the International Criminal Court in Africa: Decolonising Global Justice (2022, Routledge); and Africa and the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Curse or Cure? (2022, Springer), The Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Recolonisation of Africa: The Coloniality of Data (2021, Routledge), and Breaking the Colonial "Contract": From Oppression to Autonomous Decolonial Futures (2020, Lexington). His work contributes to debates on the intersection of coloniality, justice, and the future of Africa.

Prof. Mapaseka Seheri

Professor Seheri is a Full Professor and the Director of Research and Innovation at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). She also serves as the Director of the Diarrhoeal Pathogens Research Unit (DPRU), the WHO Rotavirus Regional Reference Laboratory, and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Surveillance.

In her institutional leadership role, Professor Seheri provides strategic direction for the University's research and innovation enterprise through the development, implementation and monitoring of the Research and Innovation Strategy. She provides institutional leadership, coordination and operational oversight of research and innovation activities, with a focus on strengthening research excellence, strategic collaborations and partnerships, external research funding, existing and emerging institutional research focus areas, interdisciplinary research, postgraduate and postdoctoral development, research capacity and high-impact research outputs and advance innovation, entrepreneurship and research commercialization through intellectual property development and technology transfer.

As Director of the DPRU and the WHO Rotavirus Regional Reference Laboratory, Professor Seheri provides scientific leadership in molecular virology, viral evolution, host-virus interactions, viral genome (sequencing and bioinformatics), pathogen surveillance, epidemiology, metagenomics and the study of diarrhoeal pathogens. Her research interests include rotavirus, norovirus and other enteric viruses, genomic diversity and evolution, gut microbiome and metagenomics, and diarrhoeal disease surveillance across Africa. Professor Seheri plays an active role in several international surveillance networks, including the African Rotavirus Surveillance Network, the Global Rotavirus Surveillance Network, the Global Paediatric Diarrhoeal Surveillance, and the Global Paediatric Norovirus Surveillance Network. Through collaborative efforts with the WHO and partners, she has successfully organized fourteen AFR RSN Inter-Country Training Workshops and trained 42 scientists and technologists from 29 African countries. Professor Seheri has earned both national and international recognition for her pioneering contributions to diarrhoeal disease and rotavirus research, including her contribution in introducing the rotavirus vaccine across the African continent and pioneering whole-genome sequencing efforts in Africa.

More recently, Professor Seheri has expanded her research portfolio into rare diseases, including research addressing access to healthcare and the application of targeted next-generation sequencing for rare diseases in the Global South. Her collaborative work in this area contributes to strengthening diagnostic capacity, research and health equity for people living with rare diseases in Africa. Through her leadership and collaboration with the Health Equity Diagnostic Infrastructure (HEDI) Initiative, SMU has advanced the establishment of a Global Rare Disease Centre of Excellence to strengthen access to specialised diagnostic and clinical services and support research and development in rare disease therapeutics. The initiative brings together academic, clinical, diagnostic and research expertise to advance health equity, strengthen rare disease research capacity and improve access to innovative diagnostic and therapeutic solutions.