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| **Department** | | | Operations Management | |
| **Discipline** | | | Project management | |
| **Research Focus Area** | | | Project management, ICT, 4IR, Sustainability | |
| **Total Capacity for 2025** | | | Total: 3 Master and 3 Doctoral candidates (6 candidates) | |
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| **Supervisor details:** | **Academic Profile** | | | **Capacity** |
| **SUPERVISOR INFORMATION**  **Dr Alfred Sithole**  **[[1]](#footnote-1)(Contact person for this focus area)**  Office: +27124298970  Email: [sithoa@unisa.ac.za](mailto:sithoa@unisa.ac.za)  ORCID:  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5399-5361> | Alfred Sithole is a Senior lecturer at the University of South Africa (UNISA), where he teaches project management. His current research interests include project management, ICT, 4IR and sustainability. He is an electronics engineer (aircraft computer systems). Before joining Unisa, he worked extensively in the ICT industry for many years, delivering ICT project solutions to various industries. Alfred holds a Doctorate in Business Leadership (DBL) from the University of South Africa Graduate School of Business Leadership. | | | 3 Master (1 co-supervision)  and  3 PhD (2co-supervision) |
| **CO-SUPERVISOR(S) INFORAMTION** |  | | |  |
| **Model of supervision** | Candidates will be allocated to a supervisor but will be required to work independently within the requirements of higher degree studies.  Additionally, the candidate will have to present his/her work to a panel of academics at colloquia. | | | |
| **Selection criteria: Master’s/Doctorate** | Refer to the qualification website for selection criteria. | | | |
| **Selection Procedure** | Refer to the qualification website for selection procedure. | | | |
| **Research scope** | Project management, ICT, 4IR and Sustainability focusing on technology and sustainability integration systems.  **Project management**  Traditional project management, Agile project management, Project Management 4.0 and Sustainable Project Management.  **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**  Hardware, software development, infrastructure, hybrid projects, other types of ICT projects (or projects from other sectors).  **Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies**  Artificial intelligence: machine learning, expert systems, digital twins, internet of things, cyber-physical systems: robots, drones, 3D printing. Augmented reality, virtual reality, mixed reality, cybersecurity, competence.  **Sustainable Project Management**  Sustainable project management practices, organisation, triple bottom-line (3Ps), integration, system boundaries, tools, competence. | | | |
| **Reading:**  **Subject Field** | 1. Reiff, Janine and Schlegel, Dennis (2022) "Hybrid project management – a systematic literature review," International Journal of Information Systems and Project Management: Vol. 10: No. 2, Article 4.   Available at: <https://aisel.aisnet.org/ijispm/vol10/iss2/4>   1. Schmidt, J., 2023. Mitigating risk of failure in information technology projects: Causes and mechanisms. *Project Leadership and Society*, *4*, p.100097. 2. El-Emam, K., Koru, A.G., 2008. A replicated survey of it software project failures. Software, IEEE 25 (5). 3. Ika, L.A., Love, P.E.D., Pinto, J.K., 2022. Moving beyond the planning fallacy: the emergence of a new principle of project behavior. IEEE Trans. Eng. Manag. 69 (6), 3310–3325. 4. Ika, L.A., Pinto, J.K., 2022a. The “re-meaning” of project success: updating and recalibrating for a modern project management. Int. J. Proj. Manag. 40 (7), 835–848. [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0263786 322000990](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0263786%20322000990). 5. Ika, L.A., Pinto, J.K., 2022b. The “re-meaning” of project success: updating and recalibrating for a modern project management. Int. J. Proj. Manag. 40, 835–848. 6. Kim, G., Humble, J., Debois, P., Willis, J., Forsgren, N., 2021. The DevOps Handbook: How to Create World-Class Agility, Reliability, & Security in Technology Organizations. IT Revolution. 7. Love, P.E., Pinto, J.K., Ika, L.A., 2022. Hundreds of years of pain, with minimal gain: capital project cost overruns, the past, present, and optimistic future. IEEE Eng. Manag. Rev. 50 (4), 56–70. 8. El Khatib, M., Alabdooli, K., AlKaabi, A. and Al Harmoodi, S., 2020. Sustainable Project Management: Trends and Alignment. *Theoretical Economics Letters*, *10*(06), p.1276. 9. Silvius, A.J.G. and Schipper, R.P.J. (2014) Sustainability in Project Management Competencies: Analyzing the Competence Gap of Project Managers. Journal of Human Resource and Sustainability Studies, 2, 40-58. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/jhrss.2014.22005> 10. Paiva, D.C. and Rabechini Jr, R., 2022. Project capabilities in industry 4.0: future research opportunities in project management. *Future Studies Research Journal: Trends and Strategies*, *14*(1), pp.e0581-e0581. 11. Aliu, J.; Oke, A.E.; Kineber, A.F.; Ebekozien, A.; Aigbavboa, C.O.; Alaboud, N.S.; Daoud, A.O. Towards a New Paradigm of Project Management: A Bibliometric Review. Sustainability 2023, 15, 9967. https:// doi.org/10.3390/su15139967 12. Meredith, J. R., Shafer S.M. and Mantel, S. J., (2018) Project *Management - A managerial approach*, 10th Edition, John Wiley and Sons | | | |
| **Reading:**  **Research Methodology** | * Creswell, J.W. & Creswell, J.D. 2017. *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Sage publications. * Brannen, J. ed., 2017. *Mixing methods: Qualitative and quantitative research*. Routledge. * Leedy, P.D. & Ormrod, J.E. 2019. Practical Research: planning and design. 12th Ed. Pearson. * Saunders, M., Lewis, P. & Thornhill, A. 2019. *Research methods for business students*. 7th Ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Education. * Yin, R. (2013). *Case study research: Design and methods.* (5th Ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. * Blumberg B, Cooper D R and Schindler P S (2005), Business research methods, MacGraw Hill, Berkshire. * Hair, [J. F. Jr.](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Joe+F.+Hair+Jr.&search-alias=books&field-author=Joe+F.+Hair+Jr.&sort=relevancerank), [Celsi](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_2?ie=UTF8&text=Mary+Celsi&search-alias=books&field-author=Mary+Celsi&sort=relevancerank), M., [Money](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_3?ie=UTF8&text=Arthur+Money&search-alias=books&field-author=Arthur+Money&sort=relevancerank), A.,  [Samouel](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_4?ie=UTF8&text=Phillip+Samouel&search-alias=books&field-author=Phillip+Samouel&sort=relevancerank), P., &   [Page](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_5?ie=UTF8&text=Michael+Page&search-alias=books&field-author=Michael+Page&sort=relevancerank)  M. (2016). *The Essentials of Business Research Methods.* 3rd Edition. Routledge: New York, New York. * Denicolo, P. & Becker, L. (2012). *Developing research proposals.* SAGE: London. * Henning, E., Gravett, S., & Van Rensburg, W. (2005). *Finding your way in academic writing*. 2nd ed. Van Schaik: Pretoria. | | | |
| **Resources: Scholar community** | Sage  Scopus  Web of Science  Elsevier  Springer  Business Source Ultimate (Ebsco)  ABI Inform Complete (Proquest)  Emerald  Sabinet African  Taylor & Francis  Wiley  IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)  WEF (World Economic Forum) | | | |
| **Potential M&D research focus areas or research projects** | | | | |
| **Unit of Analysis** | | **Research Focus** | | |
| **Project management in general** | | Information and communication technology is the basis for projects that provide business solutions across industries. Therefore, ICT projects, emerging technologies and sustainability are essential.  Project management  ICT projects (across industries)  Emerging technologies  Sustainability (Profit, People, Planet) | | |
| **The delineation as a fundamental of project management to be considered.** | | **Aspects of project management**  Project manager competence  Knowledge and skills  Traditional and Agile project management approaches  Methodology  Tools and techniques  Information and Communication Technology projects  Artificial intelligence  Sustainability  Project manager role  Project management processes  Integration systems  Project environment  Project performance | | |

1. Please note that consulting the research focus area leader is no assurance that your application will be approved. If, however, your application is approved, it is also not a guarantee that he/she will be allocated as your supervisor. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)