



7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies)

INVITATION: Working Group

1. Marine Studies, 2. Aviation and Aeronautical Studies, 3. Automotive, 4. Energy, 5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array, 6. Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation, 7. **Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies)**, 8. Health Studies/Medicine, 9. Feminist, Womanist, Bosadi Theorisations, 10. Student Support and Co-Curricular Activities.



CGS Catalytic Niche Area Working Group Session

You are warmly invited to the 4th series of 2024 College of Graduate Studies-facilitated catalytic niche area working group sessions. We are continuing to follow our scaffolded approach to catalytic niche area optimisation. For the 1st series, we structured the sessions as reading groups where attendees could explore expansive conceptualisations and multidisciplinary avenues of participation into the catalytic niche areas. For the 2nd series, we invited presenters to share examples of excellence in catalytic niche area research. For the 3rd series, we solidified epistemic communities of catalytic niche area practice at UNISA. For this 4th series, we are exploring how to locate ourselves at the cutting-edges of catalytic niche area scholarly disciplines. This focus is aligned with the larger mandate to establish UNISA as a leading academic voice in the catalytic niche areas.

In order to familiarise ourselves with the latest research in the CNAs, we will anchor the session in recent outputs. Attendees are encouraged to read the suggested texts before the session to benefit from it optimally. Please think about the following questions for discussion during the session:

- How do the readings shape current thinking about the CNA?
- What emerges when reading the texts from an explicitly African positionality?
- What are the readings' implications for practice beyond academia?
- Can you draw any linkages between your own research expertise and the readings?

Readings:

- Li, R. and Y. Ma. (2024). "Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Biotechnology in STEM Education as an Indicator of Scientific Literacy" in *Journal of Baltic Science Education* 1. <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=1225222>
- Auge, G., Sunil, R.S., Ingle, R.A., Rahul, P.V., Mutwil, M. and Estevez, J.M. (2024). "Current Challenges for Plant Biology Research in the Global South" in *New Phytologist* 244. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.20083>

If you struggle with accessing the readings, please contact **Prof Murray** at murray@unisa.ac.za before the session.

Monday, 11 November 2024
11:00 – 12:00

Join the Session on MS Teams

<https://tinyurl.com/329tmm7r>

