

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### UNISA RESEARCH AND INNOVATION WEEK 2019

ATTENTION: EDITORS, PRODUCERS, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL REPORTERS

27 February 2019

The University of South Africa (Unisa) will host its Research and Innovation (R&I) Week 2019 to focus on the relevance of Open Distance Learning (ODL) research in the South African context, under the theme “*ODeL in the Global South: Documenting the African Experience*”.

The following three ODL international scholars from Nigeria, Canada and Germany are invited, and will present and share information on Major Topics of Research in Open and Distance Education – Past and Future.

- Professor Christine Ofulue: Associate Professor of Linguistics - National University of Nigeria. Professor Ofulue will set a scene for an open session debate on the scholarship of teaching ODeL.
- Professor Terry Anderson, Athabasca University Professor and Canada Research Chair in Distance Education. Professor Anderson will reflect on the process of developing a research agenda and briefly highlight the 15 issues that were the major topic of published research in 2015.
- Professor Olaf Zawacki-Richter, Director of the Centre for Open Education Research at Germany’s Oldenburg University. Professor Zawacki-Richter will describe some of the most significant thematic trends over 40 years, based on a content analysis of leading distance education and educational technology journals. He will also speculate about the future of ODE research, with particular regard to the South African context.

The international speakers will be joined by a local line-up of speakers to share their ODL research expertise as it relates to South Africa in particular and Africa more broadly. Amongst them are the following:

- Unisa’s Professor Meekest Letseka - Holder of the UNESCO Chair of ODL.
- Professor Mpine Makoe - Head of Unisa’s Institute for Open and Distance Learning.

The Unisa R&I Week 2019 will take place as follows:

Date: 04 – 08 March 2019

Time: 08:30 for 08:30

Venue: Senate Hall, 3rd floor, Theo van Wijk Building, Unisa, Preller St, Muckleneuck, Pretoria



Members of the media are invited to attend the event.

For RSVP and interview request please contact Mr Tommy Huma (Senior Media Liaison Officer) on 012 429 3981 / 072 218 6197 / [humatm@unisa.ac.za](mailto:humatm@unisa.ac.za)

**- Ends-**

**Issued by:**

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