

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION WEEK

College of Human Sciences

Wednesday, 22 May 2024 @ 11:00-13:00 | Senate Hall (WMM)

THEME: **Towards a *Black Conscious AI*: Centring African Epistemologies**

Program Director Mr. Andrew Spaumer

TIME	PRESENTATION	PRESENTER
11:00-11:10	Opening and Welcome	Prof ZZ Nkosi CHS Executive Dean
Guest speaker		
11:10 – 11:20	Introduction of guest speaker	Prof PJ Segalo
11:20 – 12:05	Keynote address: In this talk, I critically reflect on the provocative question: if it is possible and what it would take to build a Black-conscious AI and relate this to futuristic scholarship in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. It builds on current work in which I am engaged on the transformative ethics of AI in Africa, driven by calls to decolonize Tech. Introducing what I frame as the original sin, keyhole masculinities, and the thesis of customary surprises, I examine the challenge of applying the Cartesian logic of predictability to other ontologies. African epistemologies, I argue, offer redemption from the original sin of tech, and a radical break from the logical principles that currently account for unethical, irresponsible, and untrustworthy AI. In contrast to this problematic dynamic, Black Consciousness offers us a new perspective, even though unorthodox, to repurpose AI and Tech in defense of the human dignity project. The implications for 'human sciences' scholarship will, in addition, be a pertinent aspect of the presentation.	Prof Fuh Devine
Respondents		
12:05 – 12:35	CHS Department of English Studies CHS Department of Information Science	Prof Chaka Chaka Dr Mashilo Modiba
Panel discussion and Q & A Session		
12:35 – 12:50	Prof Fuh, Prof Chaka, and Dr Modiba	
Vote of Thanks		
12:50 – 13:00		Prof OB Onyancha Head of Graduate Studies and Research
Lunch		
13:00-14:00	Foyer	

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20-25 May 2024 senate Hall, Muckleneuk Ca Tamsanqua Auditorium, Science Campus
Thabo Mbeki School of Public and International Affairs
Unisa Irene Conference Centre
School of Business Leadership, Midrand Campus

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