

## DRS INAUGURAL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER PROFILES

**Professor Thenjiwe Meyiwa** is Vice Principal for the Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation portfolio at the University of South Africa (Unisa). She previously held the position of Registrar at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) following a stint at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) as a senior manager and researcher. Her strong focus on social science research and indigenous knowledge systems has led to papers presented at numerous national and international forums; authored research articles and co-published five books. She also plays a role in various parastatals, community and civil society organisations which include the Rural Women's Movement and the South African National Heraldry Council.

**Prof Les Labuschagne** has been Executive Director: Research, Innovation & Commercialisation at the University of South Africa (Unisa) since 2011. In 2021, he obtained professional recognition as Senior Research Management Professional (SRMP) from the International Professional Recognition Council (IPRC) for his contribution and achievements over this ten-year period. He joined Unisa in 2009 as full Professor and Director of the School of Computing in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET). Prof Labuschagne was invited onto the founding editorial board of the Journal of Research Management and Administration (JoRMA) in 2019. He is an International Academic Advisor for the PMWorld Journal and is a member of the Project Management South Africa (PMSA) Board.

**Professor Sioux McKenna** is the Director of Postgraduate Studies at Rhodes University. Her research interrogates what forms of knowledge are created and disseminated in the academy and what practices are required for success in different fields. Her publications span those focused on students' literacy practices to the ways in which funding acts as a mechanism to drive practices in the higher education system. Her recent book, co-authored with Chrissie Boughey, looks at how global, national and institutional factors emerge in student and staff experiences of the academy. The book can be downloaded for free here: <https://www.africanminds.co.za/understanding-higher-education/>

**Professor Steward Mothata** is a member of the Executive Management of the University of South Africa (Unisa). He joined the institution in 1995 as a lecturer in Comparative Education and was promoted to senior lecturer and associate professor. He served as Deputy Dean of the former Faculty of Education and later as Executive Director in the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor. He was then appointed Registrar at the Tshwane University of Technology for a period of four years. He rejoined Unisa in September 2019 as Deputy Registrar and was subsequently appointed as Registrar. Prof Steward Mothata is also an author with several publications under his name.

**Professor Soul Shava** is a full Professor of Environmental Education at the College of Education at the University of South Africa with professional background in environmental education and sustainable development, botany and ecology. He has wealth of experience in community development, particularly in Community Based Natural Resources Management. His passion is for community upliftment through relevant skills transfer and capacity development processes. His research interests is in indigenous knowledges, particularly their representation and application in community development contexts, intangible and tangible cultural and natural heritage, traditional agrobiodiversity use and conservation, climate change, green economy, socio-ecological resilience, indigenous food plants, local food security and food sovereignty.