

# NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

Welcomes all postgraduate students and invites you to a  
three-day Hybrid Orientation Programme



higher education  
& training  
Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**15 - 17 August 2023**

**Programme Director: Ms Jadine Januarie**

**Online platform:** Microsoft Teams



**VENUE:** Senate Hall, Second Floor MTLC Building, North Campus, Summerstrand

## Day 1 (Tuesday, 15 August 2023)

**09h50 – 10h30** **'Arrive' 5-10 minutes before the start of the programme**

**10h00 – 10h20** **Welcome and Opening**

Dr Priscilla Mensah (Acting Senior Director: Office of International Education and Director: Research Development)

Mr Khwezi Mathambeka (President: Student Representative Council)

**10h20 – 11h00** **Making A Successful Transition to Postgraduate Studies**

Dr Priscilla Mensah (Acting Senior Director: Office of International Education and Director: Research Development)

**11h00 – 11h30** **Developing an effective working relationship with your supervisor**

Prof Syden Mishi (Associate Professor and Head of Department: Economics)

**11:30 – 12:h00** **Tea/Coffee Break**

**12h00 – 12h30** **The value of science engagement in research**

Dr Nehemiah Latolla (Postdoctoral Fellow: Department of Chemistry)

**12h30 – 13h00** **Identifying international study opportunities during your postgraduate studies**

Ms Huba Boshoff (Director: Nuffic Neso South Africa/Southern Africa and Owner and Founder: The Knowledge Collab)



**13h00 – 14h00 Lunch Break**

**14h00 – 14h30 Showcasing the essential tools for researchers**

Mrs Deidre Gerber (Senior Librarian - Information: Library and Information Services)

**14h30 – 15h30 Facilitated discussion: Resources available to support postgraduate students - ICT Services, Academic Writing, Health and Wellness, Universal Accessibility and Disability Services (UADS), Transformation Office**

Mr Craig Chivandi (IT Helpdesk Assistant: ICT Services)

Mr Andile Mhlahlo (Academic Literacies Practitioner: Learning Development, LT Collab)

Mrs Nomalungelo Ntlokwana (Director and Counselling Psychologist: Emthonjeni Student Wellness, LT Collab)

Mr Athenkosi Nqikashe (Operational Manager: UADS)

Ms Ulleta Marais (GBV Counsellor and Advocacy and Awareness Coordinator: Transformation Office)

**15h30 Vote of Thanks**



## Day 2 (Wednesday, 16 August 2023)

**09:20 – 09:30**    **'Arrive' 5-10 minutes before the start of the programme**

**9:30 – 11:30**    Guidelines for Proposal Development and Ethical Considerations  
**Postgraduate students to be divided into STEM and SSH Disciplines.**

**STEM DISCIPLINES:** Prof Kennedy Otwombe (Associate Professor and Head of Statistics: Perinatal HIV Research Unit, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, University of the Witwatersrand)

**SSH DISCIPLINES:** Dr Noluncwe Bomela (Research Associate: Public Management and Leadership)

**11:30 – 12:00**    **Break for 30 minutes**

**12:00 – 13:30**    Academic Writing and the Literature Review  
**Postgraduate students to be divided into STEM and SSH Disciplines.**

**STEM DISCIPLINES:** Prof Kennedy Otwombe (Associate Professor and Head of Statistics: Perinatal HIV Research Unit, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, University of the Witwatersrand)

**SSH DISCIPLINES:** Dr Noluncwe Bomela (Research Associate: Public Management and Leadership)

**13:30 – 14:00**    **Lunch Break**

**15:00 – 15:15**    **Break for 15 minutes**

**16:15 – 16:30**    **Evaluation**



# Day 3 (Thursday, 17 August 2023)

**09:20 – 09:30** **'Arrive' 5-10 minutes before the start of the programme**

**09:30 – 11:30** **Introduction to quantitative research**

Ms Carmen Stindt (Statistical Consultant: Unit for Statistical Consultation)

**11:30 – 12:00** **Break for 30 minutes**

**12h00 – 12h30** **Overview of quantitative research designs**

Ms Carmen Stindt (Statistical Consultant: Unit for Statistical Consultation)

**12h00 – 12h30** **Overview of qualitative research designs**

Ms Carmen Stindt (Statistical Consultant: Unit for Statistical Consultation)

**13:30 – 14:00** **Lunch Break**

**14:00 – 15:00** **Important considerations in questionnaire design**

Ms Carmen Stindt (Statistical Consultant: Unit for Statistical Consultation)

**14:00 – 15:00** **Important considerations in qualitative research**

Prof Kambidima Wotela (WITS Graduate School of Governance Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management)

**15:00 – 15:15** **Break for 15 minutes**

**15:15 – 16:15** **Getting started with IBM SPSS Statistics**

Ms Carmen Stindt (Statistical Consultant: Unit for Statistical Consultation)

**15:15 – 16:15** **Important considerations for a mixed research strategy**

Prof Kambidima Wotela (WITS Graduate School of Governance Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management)

**16h15 – 16h30** **Evaluation**



# Speaker Biographies



## Dr Priscilla Mensah

Priscilla Mensah is the Acting Senior Director: Office of International Education and is also Director: Research Development at Nelson Mandela University. The Directorate contributes to an enabling environment for research by supporting emerging researchers (which includes postdoctoral and research fellows), facilitating all aspects of postgraduate student funding and offering development programmes for staff and postgraduate students. Through the Unit for statistical consultation, it offers training and consultation for statistical needs of researchers. It also manages ethics processes at the institution.

Prior to joining Mandela University, she was Director in the Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development Directorate of the National Research Foundation (NRF). She held several positions at the University of the Free State including Deputy-Director: International Academic Programmes and Deputy Director of the Postgraduate School. She served as Director for the three consecutive summer schools of the Southern African Young Scientist Summer Programme (SA-YSSP) in Applied Systems Analysis hosted at the University of the Free State from 2012-2015. A key research output from this programme was the book *Systems Analysis Approach for Complex Global Challenges*, published by Springer in 2018 and for which she was Managing Editor. She has extensive knowledge of South Africa's Higher Education and Training landscape and the National System of Innovation. She is a specialist in systems analysis with specific emphasis on science and policy within South Africa and beyond.

She holds Masters and Doctoral degrees in Chemistry from the University of Cape Town.





### Mr Khwezi Mathambeka

Mr Khwezi Mathambeka is a third year Human Resources Management student. He is a former PRO for the Nelson Mandela University Drama Society, former DASO Institutional Chair, 2019 Ward Candidate for Ward 36 under the Democratic Alliance, currently enrolled in the DA Young Leaders Programme and the Student Representative Council (SRC) President at Nelson Mandela University.



### Prof Syden Mishi

Syden Mishi holds a doctorate in Economics, currently an Associate Professor of Economics and Head of Economics Department at Nelson Mandela University, where he also chairs the Business and Economic Sciences Faculty Post Graduate Studies Committee; serves on the Sustainability & Institutional Viability Task Team and is member of the Research Data Management Task Team. Syden has over 10 years of teaching at various levels, modules including Research Methods, Survey Techniques, Microeconomics, Advanced Microeconomics, Economics of competition regulation among others. He is a C-rated (nationally established) researcher by South Africa National Research Foundation. He served as Senior Researcher/Statistician at the University of Fort Hare for over four years, training students and staff (supervisors) on research methods and data analytics. He has extensively published and supervised at all levels and at different institutions national and internationally, presents regularly at national and international conference, chairs scientific committees for conferences; serves as Guest Editor / editor for a peer reviewed journals; is involved in academic programmes reviews at various institutions. Syden engages in policy related research, among other engagements serving as member of the South Africa's Eastern Cape Province Economic Commission since 2020; member of the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers Expert Forum on youth employment and BRICS Labour Research Network since 2018, facilitated the domestication of Sustainable Development Goals in the Eastern Cape Province. Syden part of the Eastern Cape body of experts and stakeholders consulted by Statistics South Africa on various surveys and Census of Commercial Agriculture as well as General Census.





## Dr Nehemiah Latolla

Dr Nehemiah Latolla is a current Postdoctoral Fellow (Chemistry) at Nelson Mandela University. Where he received his PhD (Chemistry) for his research in the Phytochemistry of indigenous medicinal plants towards drug discovery for the management of diabetes. His research has recently been awarded the best poster prize on the theme of Biodiversity and Natural Products at the 3rd Commonwealth Chemistry Poster Conference. Nehemiah has been involved in various institutional forums including the Learning and Teach Curriculum Group as a science representative, the Women and Gender Centre's Gender Transformation Working Group, and the Science Faculty's Strategic Working Group. Nehemiah also served as the chairperson of the Mandela Uni Poetry Society, and Postgraduate Representative for Nelson Mandela University and the South African Chemical Institute (SACI). His passion for science and its effective communication with the public has also resulted in his winning of the International FameLab Competition 2022. Other institutional award includes being awarded the VC's Excellence Award as Arts and Culture Person of the Year in 2018. Nehemiah Latolla was born in Johannesburg and now resides in the windy city, of Gqeberha.







## Ms Huba Boshoff

Huba Boshoff has built a career in the higher education sector. In the past two decades she has worked in the field of student development, programme development and accreditation, quality assurance and internationalisation. Huba's previous professional roles include being the Manager of the Center for Partnerships and Internationalisation at Stellenbosch University where her portfolio included partnership management, strategy development and information management. She has also worked intensively on student development establishing the Unit for Multiculturalism (also at Stellenbosch University), reviewing student leadership structures and support mechanisms and crafting interventions that engage students both inside and outside the classroom.

She is currently the Director for Nuffic in Southern Africa (part time) with a specific focus on fostering innovative models of collaboration in internationalisation between South Africa (and other African countries) and the Netherlands.

Alongside her professional positions, Huba served as a member of the International Education Association for South Africa (IEASA) from 2013 -2019 and volunteered as trainer for the former international student programme, SAWIP as well being a faculty member for ENACTUS.

She completed a Master's degree in Higher Education (cum laude) at Stellenbosch University and focused her research on the barriers to international student mobility. She holds further academic qualifications in Community Development and Knowledge management.

In 2022 Huba established The Knowledge Collab as a platform to conduct consulting assignments alongside her role as Director of Nuffic Neso South Africa/Southern Africa. The Knowledge Collab is based on the principles of trust, creativity and impact.





### **Mrs Deidre Gerber**

Mrs Deidre Gerber is an experienced Senior Information Librarian at Nelson Mandela University Library, with a career spanning over 26 years. She supports researchers, faculty members, and students in their pursuit of knowledge and has a Bachelor of BiBL (Hons) degree.



### **Mr Craig Chivandi**

Mr Craig Chivandi is an ICT Services Consultant under the ICT Helpdesk Team and has been with the ICT Department for a little over 4 years now. He is part of a team that tirelessly works hard to always provide the best first- and second-line ICT technical support to both students and staff at Nelson Mandela University.



### **Mr Andile Mhlahlo**

Mr Andile Mhlahlo has been working at Nelson Mandela University as the Academic Literacies Practitioner for the past five years. Previously, he worked for the NGOs in the Eastern Cape province for about two years, doing research work and teaching; and at the University of Cape Town as an administrator for about nine years. He has been the research supervisor for the past seven years, for PGDip students in the Department of Development Studies. He is completing his PhD studies in Public Administration this year.





## Mrs Nomalungelo Ntlokwana

Mrs Nomalungelo (Lungsi) Ntlokwana is Director: Emthonjeni Student Wellness (ESW) at Nelson Mandela University. Lungsi joined the University in 2005. In 2008, she was appointed as a Counselling Psychologist and progressed to a Senior Psychologist position in 2011. As a Senior Psychologist, she coordinated the Missionvale Centre and managed the career core competence, building strong relationships with industry and school communities through career outreach programmes expanding access to the University.

She holds an MA in Counselling Psychology from Nelson Mandela University and her Psychology Honours and BA Ed, both from the former Vista University. Lungsi is registered as a Counselling Psychologist with the Health Professions Council of Southern Africa (HPCSA) and is a Level II International Peer Educator Trainer of Trainers.

She joined the University from the Department of Education (DoE), where she was a Head of Department and formed part of the school's Senior Management Team. She has served on the National Executive Management Committee of the Southern African Association for Counselling and Development in Higher Education (SAACDHE) and was its Eastern Cape Regional Chairperson.



## Mr Athenkosi Nqikashe

Mr Athenkosi Nqikashe obtained his Master's degree in Development Studies at Nelson Mandela University (NMMU then) in 2009, and his thesis focused on investigating structural socio-economic factors stifling the performance of rural schools in the Eastern Cape. He has more than ten years of diversified work experience in student support services specialising in management, facilitation and coordination of work integrated learning, career guidance, academic support, and advocacy of disability services. In October 2019, he joined Nelson Mandela University as the Operational Manager in Universal Accessibility and Disability Services Unit.



## Ms Ulleta Marais

Social Worker by Profession. Currently the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Counsellor at the Transformation Office also an Advocacy and Awareness Coordinator for students under the Engagement and Transformation Portfolio at Nelson Mandela University.





## Prof Kennedy Otwombe

Kennedy Otwombe, BEd (Sc), MSc (Mathematical Statistics), PhD (Biostatistics) is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and the lead statistician at the Perinatal HIV Research Unit (PHRU), Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, University of the Witwatersrand. He has more than 15 years' experience working as a research statistician in medical research including prevention and therapeutic studies with primary focus on HIV and TB. His roles have included conceptualization of research hypothesis, study designs, sample size estimations, sampling, study implementation, statistical analysis and writing manuscripts and grant applications. As an academic, Kennedy Otwombe has more than 130 peer reviewed academic publications in the field of public health, teaches and supervises postgraduate student research and is an editor for Pharmaceutical Statistics Journal. He is also involved in several international health research networks conducting infectious and non-infectious disease research.



## Dr Nolunkwe Bomela

Dr Nolunkwe Bomela is a Research Associate with the Department of Public Management and Leadership at Nelson Mandela University and former Director of the Department of Research Management at the same institution. She received a Ph.D. in Sociology (specializing in Medical Demography) from the University of Pretoria (UP) whilst employed as a senior lecturer in demography, sociology, and research methodology at the same university.

Prior to joining the University of Pretoria, she worked as a Senior Researcher in the Population Dynamics Division and at the Centre for Science Development at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Pretoria. While at UP she received an Andrew Mellon Foundation Scholarship (1997-1999) and completed various modules in Research Methodology at the University of Michigan (USA). She has participated in and managed large-scale survey data research projects at both the HSRC and UP.

Her research interests focus on infant mortality, maternal mortality, child malnutrition and population aging. Her methodological work focuses on the analysis of large-scale survey data (secondary data analysis), general survey methodology, and qualitative data analysis with and without computers. She has supervised several Honours, Masters, and PhD students.





## Ms Carmen Stindt

Ms Carmen Stindt has worked as a Statistical Consultant since 2016 helping postgraduate students and researchers to successfully complete their statistical analysis required for their degree or research paper. She currently runs her own private statistical consultation company, Eversci. She also worked as a lecturer at Nelson Mandela University from 2016 to 2017 where she lectured 2nd and 3rd year BCom/BSc statistics modules. Ms Stindt joined the Unit for Statistical Consultation (USC) in February 2017 as a Statistical Consultant. She then took an opportunity to join industry from 2018 to 2019 before returning to join the USC permanently until early 2023. Ms Stindt remains connected to Nelson Mandela University to assist with statistical trainings for researchers.

She has facilitated many workshops aimed at improving research capacity at Nelson Mandela University from 2015 to the present, where she facilitates monthly workshops for postgraduate students and staff on behalf of the USC.

She has a MCom in Statistics Research and is currently pursuing her PhD in Mathematical Statistics. Her day-to-day work includes providing statistical consultation postgraduates students and staff, both at Nelson Mandela University as well as other universities, whose work includes a quantitative component or is entirely quantitative. This includes assistance with research design and methodology, data collection, data analysis and interpretations.

Ms Stindt is extremely passionate and enthusiastic about bringing statistical understanding to all postgraduate students and hopes that each client she works with, learns a little more about their own abilities and grows in strength, both professionally and personally.



## Prof Kambidima Wotela

Prof Kambidima Wotela studied demography and population studies for all his degrees. He is a recipient of various scholarships and fellowships including the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation fellowship and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation scholarship. He teaches systems thinking, monitoring and evaluation, as well as research and analytical methods at the WITS Graduate School of Governance. One of his current research streams is on approaches to research supervision.



# Change the World

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