

# ***Equity-Sensitive Strategies of Higher Education in South Africa: Internationalization@Home in Post- Pandemic Times***

March 11, 2022

Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)

Cape Town, South Africa

Virtual Event

The forum will address HE internationalization strategies and focus on one of the phases of internationalization@home that includes collaborative online international learning (COIL). The case study presented by the host has the objective to advance institutional practices at universities in the Western Cape and technical universities throughout South Africa.

The initiative addresses both SDG 4 and Quality Education, focusing on Higher Education – and SDG 17 partnerships. 4IR and online learning in its multiple modality roll out-is embedded in the politics of the have and have nots – therefore, cultural and economic inequalities should ideally underpin 4IR interventions and hybrid plans of face to face and virtual teaching and learning in a post-pandemic world. New reality/normal/landscape - accelerated global pedagogical teaching methodologies, global/ cross border/ transnational/real-time transnational platforms - collaborations are new opportunities to address issues of access and inequalities, and ideologies to address SDGs and 2030 goals.

The forum will also serve to launch, pilot and thus validate the research agenda of the new research unit to be established at the host Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), embedded within the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships (SIP). The research project consists of two phases which seek to reconfigure, define, and continue existing strategies and pedagogies in internationalization policies and practices by considering the following aspects: What is the role of the internationalization of Higher Education in its broad mandate to internationalize the curricula at home and abroad, on staff and student mobility, research collaborations, or established and emerging summer school programs? In the first phase, it will answer the research questions of the level of alignment of institutional with national policies and the conceptual underpinnings, elements and reasons of an institutional policy, as well as the stages and processes of implementation drawing on an institutional case study approach followed by analyzing the 4IR impacts on teaching and learning in the post-COVID-19 world.

## EQUITY-SENSITIVE STRATEGIES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: INTERNATIONALIZATION@HOME IN POST-PANDEMIC TIMES

VENUE: CAPE TOWN HOTEL SCHOOL, CPUT GRANGER BAY CAMPUS

TIME	ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS
09:00	Opening remarks: Dr David Phaho, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
<b>SESSION 1</b>	<b>Transnational collaborations and centring the periphery Chair: Prof Judy Peter, Cape Peninsula University of Technology</b>
09:10 – 10:10	Keynote address: Prof Emmet Tadesse Woldegiorgis, University of Johannesburg
10:10 – 10:30	Questions, answers and discussions
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
<b>SESSION 2</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Goals – Gender, education, and collaborations in Africa Panel Chair: Ms Tracy Beckett, University of the Western Cape</b>
11:00 – 11:30	Keynote address: Dr Michael Twum-Darko, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
11:30 – 12:30	Panellist 1: Mr Umesh Bawa, University of the Western Cape Panellist 2: Prof Latifa Negadi, University of Tlemcen Algeria Panellist 3: Prof Tammy Shefer, University of the Western Cape Panellist 4: Dr Nico Elema, University of Stellenbosch
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch
<b>SESSION 3</b>	<b>Third stream income, global learning, and digitization Keynote address: Dr Upasana G Singh Academic leader: Discipline of information systems and technology, University of KwaZulu-Natal Chair: Ms Nicola Latchiah, University of Cape Town</b>
13:15 – 15:15	Prof Wallace Chigona, Professor of Information Systems, School of Information Technology, University of Cape Town Ms Sarah van der Westhuizen, Manager: Global Education Centre, Stellenbosch University Dr Benita Moolman, Programme Manager CILT: Global Citizenship Programme Dr Dan Davies, Director of Higher Education Management Programmes, University of Bath School of Management
15:15 – 15:45	Tea/coffee
<b>SESSION 4</b>	<b>Case studies – Internationalisation policy and strategy development: Panel discussion Chair: Dr Tasmeeera Singh, Manager: International Relations, Cape Peninsula University of Technology</b>
15:45 – 17:15	Address: Mr Mahlubi Mabizela, Chief Directorate: Higher Education Policy Development and Research, Department of Higher Education and Training Panellist 1: Mr Robert Kotze, Stellenbosch University Panellist 2: Ms Nicola Latchiah, University of Cape Town Panellist 3: Prof Judy Peter, Cape Peninsula University of Technology Panellist 4: Mr Umesh Bawa, University of the Western Cape
17:15 – 17:30	Launch research project – Dr Tasmeeera Singh, Cape Peninsula University of Technology Next steps: Edited book project – Dr Leonie Schoelen, Cape Peninsula University of Technology
17:30 – 18:30	Networking cocktail reception

**11 MARCH 2022**

# INVITATION

The Cape Peninsula University of Technology's Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Directorate cordially invites you to attend

**ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS (AIEA) HYBRID FORUM**  
**EQUITY-SENSITIVE STRATEGIES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA**  
**INTERNATIONALIZATION@HOME IN POST-PANDEMIC TIMES**

**DATE: FRIDAY, 11 MARCH 2022 | TIME: 09:00–18:30**  
**VENUE: CAPE TOWN HOTEL SCHOOL, CPUT GRANGER BAY CAMPUS**

The forum will address HE internationalization strategies, and focus on one of the phases of internationalization@home that includes collaborative online international learning (COIL).

The case study presented by the host has the objective to advance institutional practices at universities in the Western Cape and technical universities throughout South Africa.

The forum will also serve to launch, pilot and thus validate the research agenda of the new research project to be established at CPUT, embedded within the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships (SIP).

**CLICK HERE TO RSVP** | **Hlengiwe Zama** | **BY** Friday, 4 March 2022  
✉ [nzamah@cput.ac.za](mailto:nzamah@cput.ac.za)

A link to the event will be sent to participants after they have RSVP'd to confirm their attendance.



forward together  
sonke siya phambili  
saam vorentoe



**AIEA FORUM REPORT 2**  
**CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AIEA FORUM 11 MARCH**  
**2022, GRANGER BAY HOTEL SCHOOL**

The following report provides a summary of the main points of discussion that emanated from the proceedings of the 11 March 2022.

**1. Theme one: Transnational collaborations and centring the periphery**

Delivered by Prof Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

- Participants interrogated the concepts of Internationalisation, Decolonisation, Africanisation and Transformation and whether these concepts intersect or remain parallel and what it means for South African higher education institutions in the present context. Discussions centred around the meaning of these concepts and how it is used in South Africa and the kind of asymmetrical power relations inherent in some of these. One of the emergent issues and a big project for SA Higher Education is the relevance and role of curriculum in the decolonial space. International Education Specialists and Educators discussed the slow pace of curriculum transformation efforts at Higher Education institutions and recognised it as a problem that requires broader discussions and consultations at the Management level. The participants also recognised the need to expand the African footprint and the need to create more partnerships in Africa.
- Discussions also centred around the National Policy for the Internationalisation of Higher Education and how we would need to interpret and create such a policy that is relevant and real to one's own institutional context.
- Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) featured strongly as a means by which we can hasten curriculum transformation efforts but also cautioned against the Internationalisation and Decolonial project.

## **2. Theme two: Sustainable Development Goals – Gender, education, and collaborations in Africa**

- This parallel session presented four diverse views from presenters around the common theme of gender and collaborations in Africa.
- Of interest one of the sessions highlighted the challenges with respect to the low uptake of female participants in fully funded mobility programmes as an ongoing problem to scholar mobility in Africa. Participants had the opportunity to engage and feedback as to how as universities in South Africa we can work around this problem.
- Another very critical issue that emanated from the discussions in this session was the issue around safety and security of female staff and students in South African higher education spaces and places. Participants flagged this as a raising concern and discussed some of the institutional strategies and surveys they are engaged to discuss and address the concerns around GBV.
- Stellenbosch University (SU) emphasised how the Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the strategic imperatives of the institution inform their decisions with respect to partnership engagement and collaboration. It was also very clear how SU's research focus areas dovetails with the SDG's.

## **3. Theme three: Third stream income, global learning, and digitization**

- This session highlighted the importance and interconnectedness of technology, global learning and digitisation and how post COVID the relevance of such dependency remains. The main discussions in this session revolved around participants experience with respect to COIL projects and the need to expand access and opportunities to students and staff through COIL engagements. Most participants agreed that COVID accelerated the use of technology as online learning platforms became the only way of teaching and learning since 2020. Some concerns shared around the COIL projects is the time, intensity and investment of the partners required to engage in such projects.
- The discussions also revolved around the need for universities to have policies on digital learning with an important closing point that digital learning is not about technology but rather it's about the pedagogy of learning.

#### **4. Theme four: Case studies – Internationalisation policy and strategy development: Panel discussion**

- This session was extremely well received as an overall presentation was provided by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). On the 6 November 2020, the National Policy on the Internationalisation of South African Higher Education was published and henceforth making it mandatory for every South African university to create an internationalisation policy with reporting targets. There were some lessons shared in the overall presentation with respect to Erasmus + project engagement and the targets for international students. It was quite clear that there was a dramatic decrease in the number of international students enrolling in the South African higher education system. A question was posed as to how respective institutional international policies will address such gaps? The panel discussion which comprised of the University of Western Cape, University of Cape Town and Cape Peninsula University of Technology illuminated the current contexts of their internationalisation strategies.
- Discussions focused on the possible challenges of the implementation of the internationalisation policy once created as different universities dealt with internationalisation in different ways.
- Funding for internationalisation was red flagged as the National Policy is clear that there is no funding support from DHET for any internationalisation activities.
- Some participants illuminated the fact that to a certain extent Erasmus + projects tend to be asymmetrical.
- An important and critical factor that emanated from the discussions is that institutions need to be mindful of their contexts as some universities are better resourced than others and by this virtue can “better” internationalise.

## 1. Thematic forum outcomes

*Disclaimer: All sessions have been recorded and are available on request. Please contact:  
Dr Tasmeeera Singh, singht@cput.ac.za*

As can be seen from the programme, the forum provided an opportunity for exchange regionally, in a national South African context and indeed beyond, by the inclusion of panellists and participants from the African and other continents. The discussions evolved around the state of the art, best practices in internationalisation at South African higher education institutions, yet, also policy-relevant interaction with a representative of the Ministry in attendance and available for questions. Likewise, there was room for raising concerns and issues jointly experienced, which led to the first step of identifying solutions for common challenges. Those will be addressed further and will be analysed in more depth in the research component in the form of a publication as outlined below.

In addition, the forum served the purpose of launching the research project entitled: **Decolonising Global Higher Education: Framing Pan – African paradigms to lead across the borders** (refer to abstract), and, as other main outcome, the edited book project was presented which will emanate from contributions in the framework of the forum. The draft structure including sections were highlighted and a call will be launched soon among all those who registered, with preference given to panellists.

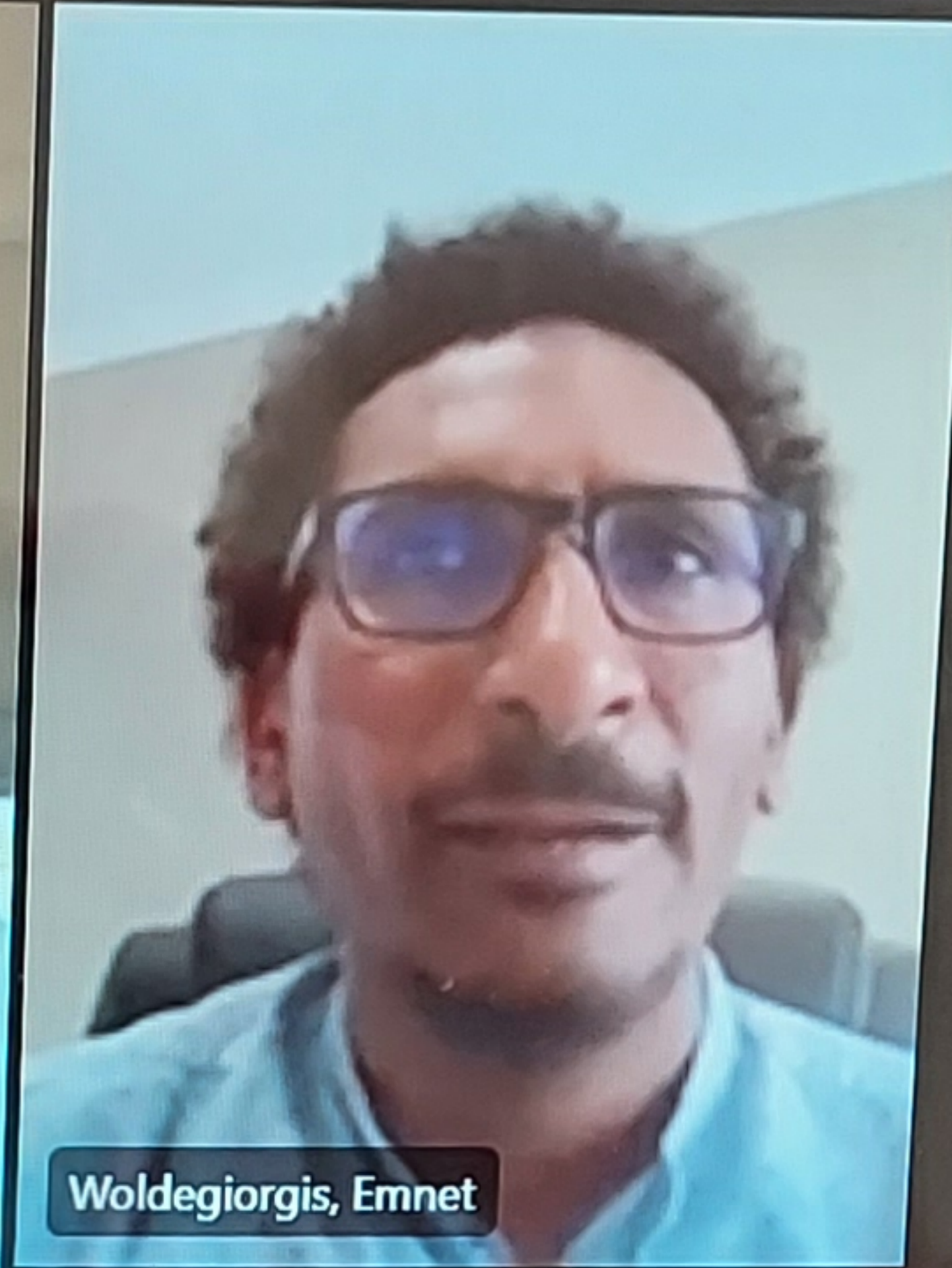
## 2. Lessons learned/insights for senior international officers

The forum showed evidence of great cooperation between different higher education institutions in the region, which not only allows for synergies of human resources and the combination and incorporation of different institutional profiles, but also offers opportunities for co-funding, e.g. for catering expenses or experts' travel costs (where applicable). The overall coordination was started early (6 months prior) and regular meetings (once a month) were held with the partners. Yet, the time planning needs to take into account feedback loops, including acquiring approval by the respective institutions' executive level.

The hybrid format of the forum proved to be very beneficial overall as it allowed both on-site and virtual attendance from across South Africa and internationally. The latter had the benefit of saving or considerably reducing travel expenses and thus making an event possible even with limited budget. This mode requires thorough preparation and corresponding human resources and the necessary technical infrastructure of the venue. Not least, participants' management needs to be well-coordinated, ideally with a website or self-registration. The programme was distributed widely via relevant national thematic associations – academic as well as practitioners' networks – and also international agencies and partners' representatives in South Africa. Publication on the AIEA website additionally attracted participation from the US.







Participant avatars and names:

- RH: Rozenda He...
- M: Martin (Gue...)
- ZM: Zandile Mx...
- SC: Shameega ...
- MP: Moses Piete...
- +21

### Participants

Type a name

Share invite

In this meeting (29) Mute all

- Leonie Schoelen
- 328 509 525# (Guest) (Guest) Meeting guest
- Beltia (Guest) Meeting guest
- Board Member - Anja Hallacker External
- claudia Mukong (Guest) Meeting guest
- CPUT Conference Organiser
- Debbie (Guest) Meeting guest
- Debra Lamson External
- Derek Stocken
- Govender, Logan External
- Jerome Kiley
- Latifa Negadi (Invitè) (Guest) Meeting guest
- Lonwabo Mahlikihla (Guest) Meeting guest



- Rushni (Gue...)
- Latifa Nega...
- SC Shameega ...
- Mzolisi Payi
- Tasmeera Si...

- Participants
- Type a name
- Share invite
- In this meeting (15)
- Leonie Schoelen
  - CPUT Conference (Organiser)
  - Debby (Guest) (Meeting guest)
  - Debra Lamson (External)
  - Derek Stocken
  - Dr. Salachi Naidoo (Guest) (Meeting guest)
  - Latifa Negadi (Invité) (Guest) (Meeting guest)
  - Mbem, Nobungwele (Miss) (Su... (External)
  - Mzolisi Payi (External)
  - Nicola Latchiah (External)
  - Nonnie Falala (External)
  - Orla Quinlan (External)



- NL Nicola Latc...
- R Rushni (Gue...)
- D Debby (Gue...)
- NF Nonnie Falala
- MP Mzolisi Payi
- Tasmeera Si...
- SC Shameega ...
- DS Derek Stock...
- LN Latifa Nega...
- DN Dr. Salachi ...
- NM Mbem, Nob...
- +2

### Meeting chat

across all disciplines and structures. I too enjoy working with students as they bring new incites in our global teaching and learning strategies

DL Debra Lamson (External) 15:31  
Thanks Bonita and Dr Davies great concepts and initiatives

DN Dr. Salachi Naidoo (Guest) 15:50  
Good day  
Just checking if there is another session coming up.

NL Nicola Latchiah 15:52  
Hi Daniel, yes we have a presentation by the chief directorate HE policy development and research DHET

16:23 Recording has started  
16:24 Recording has stopped. Saving recording...

**Meeting** ...  
Recorded by: CPU...  
3h 54m 25s

Type a new message