

Building Capacity in African Research, Innovation and Science Systems: Using the Discipline of Anticipation

An Africa Week Side Event

Event Dates:

29 May 2025 Time: 11:30 - 18:30

30 May 2025 Time: 10:00 - 13:30

Venue: **Future Africa Campus, University of Pretoria, South Africa**

DAY 1 – MAY 29, 2025 FUTURES LITERACY INCUBATOR SIDE EVENT		
Time	Event	Speakers
11:30 - 11:45	Welcome & Overview of the Day	Wanda Markotter (Director, Future Africa) Riel Miller (Visiting Fellow, Future Africa, Senior Fellow, Wits School of Governance)
11:45 - 13:15	Plenary Session 1: Harnessing the diversity of anticipatory systems and processes to enhance policy making <i>A discussion around the theory and practice of anticipation, the capacity to enhance the human imagination, and policy innovation. This session will explore the role of different imaginaries in shaping policy making and strategic conversations.</i>	<u>Keynote:</u> Riel Miller (Visiting Fellow, Future Africa, Senior Fellow, Wits School of Governance) <u>Discussants:</u> Passy Ogolla (Society for International Development, School of International Futures) Pierre Schoonraad (Head of Research and Development Unit, Centre for Public Service Innovation) <u>Moderator:</u> Alinah Segobye (CEO, Human Resource Development Council Botswana)
13:15 - 14:30	LUNCH	

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DAY 1 – MAY 29, 2025 FUTURES LITERACY INCUBATOR SIDE EVENT		
Time	Event	Speakers
14:30 - 16:00	<p>Plenary Session 2:</p> <p>Futures Literacy and Learning – African Perspectives</p> <p><i>This session will explore African perspectives on the relationship between futures literacy and research and teaching, emphasizing work that encompasses diverse disciplines, and wider society.</i></p>	<p><u>Keynote:</u> Julius Gatune (UNESCO Chair in Anticipatory Socio-Technical Systems)</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u> Kewulay Kamara (UNESCO Chair in Futures Studies, Storytelling and Anticipation: Living Traditions, Transitions, and Resilience)</p> <p>Geci Karuri-Sebina (Associate Professor, Tayarisha, University of the Witwatersrand)</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mmabatho Montse (Entrepreneur, Conscious Conversations Podcast Host & Producer)</p>
16:00 - 16:15	BIO BREAK	
16:15 - 17:30	<p>Plenary Session 3 (Hybrid Session):</p> <p>Exploring Scenarios of Italy – Africa Research Collaboration</p> <p><i>This session will explore the possibilities of integrating futures literacy into research and teaching initiatives in African contexts.</i></p>	<p><u>Keynote:</u> Patrizio Bianchi (former Minister of Education, Emeritus Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Ferrara, Italy)</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u> Annateresa Rondinella (UNESCO Chair on "Sustainable energy communities" at the University of Pisa, Italy)</p> <p>Roland Benedikter (Co-Head of the Center for Advanced Studies, EURAC; and UNESCO Chair in Interdisciplinary Anticipation and Global-Local Transformation, EURAC, Italy)</p> <p>Luca Tiano (Science Officer, Italian Embassy, South Africa)</p> <p>Keith Holmes (Programme Specialist and Research Coordinator, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme)</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Riel Miller (Visiting Fellow, Future Africa, Senior Fellow, Wits School of Governance)</p>
17:30 – 18:30	Reception – networking	

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DAY 2 – MAY 30, 2025 FUTURES LITERACY INCUBATOR SIDE EVENT		
Time	Event	Speakers
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome & Overview of the Day	Riel Miller (Visiting Fellow, Future Africa, Senior Fellow, Wits School of Governance)
10:15 - 11:45	Plenary Session 4: Integrating futures literacy into science and innovation for sustainable, inclusive, and just African futures <i>This session will examine the potential role of futures literacy and transformative science and research systems in pursuit of preferred African futures.</i>	<u>Keynote:</u> Tanja Hichert (Co-Chair of UNESCO Chair in Complex Systems and Transformative African Futures) <u>Discussant:</u> Priscilla Morley (Sustainable Development Solutions Network Manager, University of Pretoria) <u>Moderator:</u> Yolande Steenkamp (Hugonote Kollege & Sustainable Development Solutions Network South Africa)
11:45 - 13:15	Plenary Session 5: Reframing intergenerational knowledge creation and transmission in an imaginary zero-work future <i>The session will explore the influence of imagined futures on the evolution of knowledge eco-systems and the relationships connecting learning, effort, and well-being.</i>	<u>Keynote:</u> Bayo Akomolafe (Philosopher, Writer, Activist, Professor of Psychology) <u>Discussants:</u> Puleng Segalo (UNISA, Professor of Psychology & Chief Luthuli Research Chair, Chair: Africa Charter Process) Olugbenga Adesida (Tech Entrepreneur, Futurist & Strategist, Co-Founder and CEO, Bonako) <u>Moderator:</u> Koffi Kouakou (Africa Analyst, Stratnum Futures)
13:15 - 13:30	Closing Remarks	Heide Hackmann (Research Chair in Science Futures, Stellenbosch University)

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