

ASSAf's Scholarly Publishing Unit

cordially invites you to

The second webinar in the series on polemics in Artificial Intelligence (AI)

"Large Language Models (LLMs): Smart Work or Academic Doping?"

LLMs are transforming academic research and publishing by significantly increasing scholars' productivity. A 2023 Nature survey revealed that nearly a third of scientists use generative AI for manuscript preparation, with LLMs aiding in tasks such as coding, brainstorming, and literature reviews. LLMs help overcome language barriers and allow researchers to create personalised models tailored to their fields, automate repetitive tasks, and boost productivity, leading to faster publication readiness and enhancing the research journey.

However, LLMs raise significant issues, including biases and exploitation in their training processes and generating errors or inaccurate information. This outsourcing of thought (and, of course, the facilitating of outright cheating by students and scholars) raises concerns about overburdening journal editors, peer reviewers, and course administrators alike. The ease of generating papers with LLMs is increasing the volume of lower-value research, making it harder to identify impactful studies and threatening the integrity and sustainability of scientific publishing.

This debate juxtaposes the optimistic view of LLMs as catalysts for scientific progress with critical perspectives on their potential to dilute research quality and integrity.

Date: Tuesday, 16 July 2024

Time: 14:00 to 16:00

Venue: ZOOM

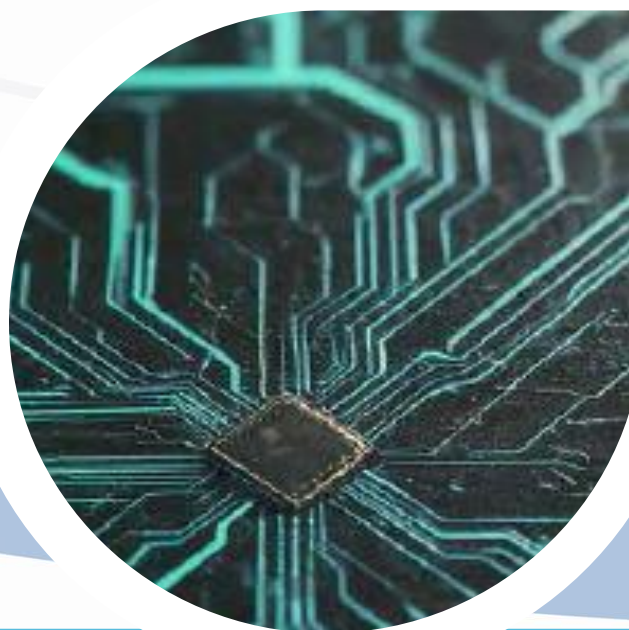
RSVP: [Click here to register](#) (After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting)



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Large Language Models (LLMs): Smart Work or Academic Doping?

The second webinar in the series on polemics in Artificial Intelligence (AI)

PROGRAMME

Facilitator: Prof Thokozani Majozi (University of the Witwatersrand)

14:00 – 14:05	Welcome	Prof Himla Soodyall (ASSAf)
14:05 – 14:10	Introductions	Prof Thokozani Majozi (University of the Witwatersrand)
14:10 – 14:20	1st Speaker	Prof Anne Verhoef (North-West University)
14:20 – 14:30	2nd Speaker	Dr Nicky Tjano (University of South Africa)
14:30 – 14:40	3rd Speaker	Prof Lynn Morris (University of the Witwatersrand)
14:40 – 14:50	4th Speaker	Prof David Walwyn (University of Pretoria)
14:50 – 15:20	Engagement and discussion among speakers	
15:20 – 15:55	Q&A	
15:55 – 16:00	Summation	Prof Thokozani Majozi



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BIOGRAPHIES



Thokozani Majozi is the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment and a professor in the School of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering at Wits University, South Africa. Majozi was a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in the United Kingdom where he completed his PhD in Chemical Engineering (Process Integration). He serves in the editorial boards of various chemical engineering journals, including Process Safety and Environmental Protection Journal and Digital Chemical Engineering Journal. A member of various scientific academies, including African Academy of Sciences and Academy of Sciences of South Africa. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and a Chartered Engineer, UK. He has received numerous awards for his research including the British Association Medal (Silver), the South African Institution of Chemical Engineers Bill Neal-May Gold Medal and the National Order of Mapungubwe bestowed on him by President of South Africa. Majozi is author and co-author of more than 300 scientific publications, including 4 books in Chemical Process Integration.



Lynn Morris is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She has a PhD from the University of Oxford and is Research Professor and founding Director of the Antibody Immunity Research Unit based at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. Over the last 30 years she has been involved in HIV vaccine research making significant contributions to understanding the antibody response to HIV. Lynn is an NRF A-rated scientist, has published over 294 papers holding an H-Index of 74 and has featured in the Web of Science list of the world's most highly cited researchers. She is a member of Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), the Royal Society of South Africa (FRSSA) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). Lynn has supervised and mentored over 50 post-graduate students and post-docs many of who have gone on to develop their own successful scientific careers.



Nicky Tjano is currently the Director of Teaching & Learning Strategy, Projects, and Portfolio Performance (Secondment) in the office of the VP: T&L at UNISA. He is substantively appointed as a Curriculum and Learning Development (CLD) Specialist in DCDT. Prior to this appointment, he was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Business Management in CEMS, teaching Research Honours level, Strategic Management and Business Management. He was also seconded to the Deanery under Tuition and Student Support office as a Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning Coordinator. He was responsible for coordinating capacity development of academics in the use of teaching tools whilst also facilitating appropriate measures for change management in the College. Amidst these roles he was also playing an active role in the Digitalization of Teaching and Learning environment. He is currently co-chairing the University's AI Task Team responsible for socialising AI policy and guidelines.



Himla Soodyall is the Executive Officer of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). An ASSAf member since 2003, she was elected to the ASSAf Council in 2011 and appointed general secretary in 2014. Prior to joining ASSAf on 1 November 2018, she was employed as a Principal Medical Scientist in the Division of Human Genetics at the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) and University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). Her research focusses on using molecular genetic tools to reconstruct the evolutionary history and affinities of sub-Saharan African populations. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Order of Mapungubwe (Bronze Medal), by President Mbeki in 2005. She was inducted into the National Academy of Sciences, USA, as an international member.



Anné Hendrik Verhoef is a Professor in Philosophy and Director of the School of Philosophy at the Faculty of Humanities at North-West University (NWU). He studied at the University of Stellenbosch, the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, and at the Free University in Amsterdam, in the Netherlands. His research interests are, amongst other, ethics and academic integrity, and he is a NRF-rated researcher. He is the co-founder and chair of the Community of Practice for Academic Integrity (CoPAI) at the NWU and published various academic articles on academic integrity in Higher Education. He is the chair of the Artificial Intelligence Steering Committee at the NWU.



David Walwyn is Professor Emeritus in the Graduate School of Technology Management at the University of Pretoria. His research interests cover sustainability transitions (particularly with respect to the socio-technical systems of energy and mobility), wind, wave and solar energy, energy systems design, science and innovation policy, research management and industry localisation, the latter focussed mainly on health technologies (vaccines and pharmaceuticals). In the broadest sense, his work lies at the interface between techno-economics, innovation/industrial policy and socio-technical transitions. He is now retired but is still active in research and supervision.