



PROGRAMME

NATIONAL SCHOLARLY EDITORS' FORUM (NSEF) MEETING 2024
Hosted by ASSAf's Scholarly Publishing Unit (SPU)

11 April 2024
Zoom

Easing into Open Science: A guide for editors

Session 1: ASSAf Business Meeting

Facilitator: Prof Keyan Tomaselli (Chairperson: ASSAf Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa (CSPiSA))

09:00 – 09:10 Welcome

09:10 – 09:15 Confirmation of the agenda

09:15 – 09:20 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 and 22 November 2022

09:20 – 09:30 Matters arising from the previous minutes

Report back on the statement on issues and struggles faced by editors of journals in SA

Prof Philip de Jager (CSPiSA Member)

09:30 – 10:40 Feedback on Scholarly Publishing Programme activities

Mrs Susan Veldsman (Director: Scholarly Publishing Programme, ASSAf)

- Open Science Statement
- Guidelines for the use of AI in editorial processes
- Performance evaluation and inclusion Criteria
- SciELO SA Advisory Committee
- Future of SciELO SA: Strategic plan
- SciELO SA 15 years celebration
- Publications Quality Framework Project
- Code of Conduct for Research
- ASSAf Open Science Policy

10:40 – 11:00 Q&A

11:00 – 11:15 Comfort break



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Session 2: Keynote Presentation

Facilitator: Prof Wian Erlank (North-West University)

11:15 – 12:00 **Life, the Universe and LLMs: What editors need to know about AI & LLMs**
Dr Martin Bekker (University of the Witwatersrand)

12:00 – 12:30 **Q&A**

12:30 – 13:15 **Lunch break**

Session 3: Accessibility

Facilitator: Ms Mmakwena Chipu (Human Sciences Research Council)

13:15 – 13:25 **Update on the OA landscape in South Africa: with special focus on Diamond Open Access – report back**
Mrs Susan Veldsman (ASSAf)

13:25 – 13:35 **Recovering page fees in South Africa: thoughts and suggestions**
Dr Hugues Steve Ndinga-Koumba-Binza (University of the Western Cape)

13:35 – 13:45 **Exploring the landscape of preprints and innovations in peer review**
Dr Thabiso Motaung (University of Pretoria)

13:45 – 14:00 **Q&A**



Session 4: Transparency

Facilitator: Prof Jemma Finch (University of KwaZulu-Natal)

14:00 – 14:10 **Open peer review**
Dr Jonny Coates (Accelerating Science and Publication in Biology - ASAPbio)

14:10 – 14:20 **How to incentivise reviewers without compromising the integrity of the peer review process**
Prof Francois Steyn (University of the Free State)

14:20 – 14:30 **Multiple threats of peer review: AI and the sheer volume of increased submissions**
Mr Peter Rall (University of South Africa Press)

14:30 – 14:45 **Q&A**



Session 5: Credibility

Facilitator: Dr Nkosinathi Madondo (Mangosuthu University of Technology)

14:45 – 14:55 **Editors' ethical conduct**
Prof Felix Maringe (University of the Witwatersrand)

14:55 – 15:05 **The role of working with associate editors**
Prof Nomanesi Madikizela-Madiya (University of South Africa)

15:05 – 15:15 **Corrections, retractions, and publishing scientific criticism: rebuttals and rejoinders**
Prof Leslie Swartz (Stellenbosch University)

15:15 – 15:30 **Q&A**

15:30 – 15:45 **Wrap-up and Closure**
Prof Keyan Tomaselli (CSPiSA)





BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS



Martin Bekker is a computational social scientist and AI ethics researcher, and lectures ethics and social science at the School of Electronic and Information Engineering at Wits University. Bekker holds degrees in values studies and philosophy from Stellenbosch, Peace Studies from Bradford, Development from the London School of Economics, and a PhD from UJ. His PhD thesis was a quantitative analysis of popular protest in South Africa, using machine learning and protest event analysis. In a previous life, he was head of the Royal Bafokeng Administration demographical and household survey research team, and served on the World Economic Forum's advisory panel for sustainable mining and minerals.



Mmakwena Chipu has been a noteworthy academic publishing leader for over 12 years. She has contributed to the Africa Institute of South Africa and the Human Sciences Research Council as a Publisher, working on books and the in-house journal, Africa Insight. Mmakwena Chipu holds an undergraduate degree in Publishing from the University of Pretoria and a Postgraduate Honours degree in Publishing from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. She is currently enrolled for a Masters Degree with the University of the Witwatersrand.



Jonny Coates' scientific interests have always been within immune cell biology. However, in 2019 he began his journey into the world of preprints and metascience, developing a research program and writing opinion pieces around the use of preprints. In 2021 he launched and continues to host the Preprints in Motion podcast focused on highlighting the benefits of preprints for early career researchers and became the Associate Director at ASAPbio in 2023.



Phillip de Jager (PhD, CA(SA)) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Finance and Tax at the University of Cape Town. He teaches on corporate finance, investments, and research methodology. His research interests are in bank capital, corporate finance, and research about research. He is an associate editor of the Journal of Accounting in Emerging Economies (JAEE), Meditari Accountancy Research Journal (MEDAR) and the South African Journal of Accountancy Research (SAJAR). Phillip serves as chair of the UCT Retirement Fund and did recent work on excessive pricing conduct for the Competition Commission of South Africa.



Wian Erlank, Editor in Chief of the Potchefstroomse Elektroniese Regsblad / Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal (PER/PELJ), is a Full Professor of law at North-West University in South Africa, where he currently teaches space law and cyber law. He is a NRF rated researcher holding a prestigious Y1 rating. He is a Member of the International Institute of Space Law as well as a Fellow of the European Law Institute (ELI) and an active member of several ELI working groups, specifically those dealing with the legal effect of new technologies. He was awarded the prestigious Von Humboldt (Georg Forster) Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers. He currently serves on the SciELO SA Advisory Committee, and previously served for two terms on ASSAf's Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa (CSPISA).





Jemma Finch is an Associate Professor in Geography at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). She holds a PhD from the University of York. Following her PhD, Jemma returned to South Africa as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cape Town, before taking up a lectureship at UKZN in 2011. A palaeoecologist by training, Jemma uses plant and animal remains preserved in sediments to understand past climate and environmental change. Jemma is an NRF C2 rated scientist, and is the recipient of the 2021 UKZN Vice Chancellor's Research Award. She is an Associate Editor for the South African Journal of Science in the field of Archaeology, Anthropology and Palaeontology. She teaches undergraduate Biogeography and Environmental Change, and has special interests in fieldwork-based training, and in developing scientific writing skills.

Nomanesi (Noma) Madikizela-Madiya is an Associate Professor and the Chair of the Department of Educational Foundations at UNISA. She is an editor of the recently accredited International Journal of Educational Development in Africa (IJEDA). Her research interest is in higher education and development, with a focus on spatial justice, academic identity, research, and transformation. Prof Madikizela-Madiya has led funded research projects on higher education spaces and socio-spatial justice, in collaboration with scholars in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. She has extensively published and co-published her work in accredited higher education journals, as well as in book chapters.



Nkosinathi Madondo has an Undergraduate Degree in the Bachelor of Pedagogies and the Bachelor of Arts: English Honours in English Literature from University of Durban-Westville. He also holds a Master's degree in English and Media Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Dr Madondo's Highest Qualification is a PhD in Education obtained from Rhodes University. Dr Madondo has a multidisciplinary 'know-what' and 'know-how' in terms of the ways of being and knowing in the disciplines. This is of Dr Madondo's involvement in the academic support programmes for students enrolled in the Accounting Extended Curriculum Programme at the University of Technology, Academic Learning in English offered for Bachelor of Education at a traditional University and as a Language Specialist in a Science Extended Curriculum Programme at a research-intensive traditional University. Such involvement aimed to broaden access to higher education for students whose schooling left them ill-equipped for success in higher education.

Felix Maringe is a Professor of Higher Education, with previous experience as Head of the Wits School of Education, Assistant Dean for Internationalisation and Partnerships at the Faculty of Humanities at Wits and Director of Research at the Wits School of Education. Currently, he is DVC for Research at the University of Kigali in Rwandaz. He is the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Educational Studies which is hosted at the University of Venda.



Thabiso Motaung is an academic and senior lecturer at the University of Pretoria's Department of Biochemistry, Genetics, and Microbiology, with affiliations at the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute. He is also a Fulbright research scholar at the University of California, Merced, investigating plant-fungal interactions and the role of membrane nanovesicles in intercellular and transkingdom signaling, as well as exploring biofilm formation in filamentous pathogens. Dr. Motaung is actively engaged in various open science initiatives and serves on the board of directors at ASAPbio, and advocates for preprints as the ASAPbio Local Hubs Community lead in Pretoria. Additionally, they contribute as an editor at eLife, reviewing manuscripts under the new model, working with peer reviewers in producing eLife assessments and public reviews for Reviewed Preprints.

Hugues Steve NDINGA-KOUMBA-BINZA, DLitt (Stel), is a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Advanced Studies in African Society (CASAS), University of the Western Cape (UWC). Previously, he served as a Senior Lecturer, postgraduate studies coordinator, and Deputy Head of the Department of Language Education in the UWC Faculty of Education. Before joining UWC, he held positions as a postdoctoral fellow, researcher, and senior researcher at the Centre for Text Technology, North-West University (Potchefstroom). During his tenure at Stellenbosch University from 2002 to 2009, he worked as a researcher at the Centre for Language and Speech Technology (SU-CLaST) and as a part-time lecturer of French and sociolinguistics. He edited volumes 27 and 30 of Lexikos and currently serves as the Associate Editor of Lexikos and Editor of Tinabantu – Journal of Advanced Studies of African Society, a journal he played a key role in revitalizing within CASAS. He has authored over 50 publications spanning the fields of phonetics and phonology, lexicography, sociolinguistics, language education, and ethnohistory.



Pieter Rall is the managing editor for journals at Unisa Press, the publishing arm of the University of South Africa (UNISA). He studied publishing at the University of Pretoria and joined Unisa Press in 2014 after working in the magazine publishing industry and in the educational publishing sector. Unisa Press continues to play a significant role in disseminating scholarly research and promoting academic discourse, particularly in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and education. Unisa Press currently has a portfolio of 46 journal titles as well as a recently established preprint server.



Francois Steyn is professor and head of the Department of Criminology at the University of the Free State. His research career commenced at the Centre for Health Systems Research & Development (UFS), where he compiled research, policy and technical reports for government and development agencies. He was the acting director of the Centre for two years before taking up a lecturing position in the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the University of Pretoria where he lectured theory and research methodology. To date, Prof Steyn has published 46 articles/book chapters, presented 38 papers at local and international conferences, authored 39 research reports, and supervised 44 master's and doctoral students. His research focuses on risk and resilience in vulnerable populations, specifically related to children in conflict with the law and female offenders. He is the editor-in-chief of the Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology and Victimology.



Leslie Swartz is a clinical psychologist and a professor of psychology at Stellenbosch University. He holds a PhD in Psychology from University of Cape Town, and a PhD in English from Stellenbosch University. Most of his work focusses on disability and mental health issues in southern Africa. He is currently editor in chief of South African Journal of Science and of Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research.



Keyan Tomaselli is a Distinguished Professor at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, and Professor Emeritus at the University of KwaZulu-Natal where he is also a Fellow. He is the chair of the ASSAf Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa, and chair of the book and editors' Fora that are managed by the Committee. He is the founder and co-editor of two international journals.



Susan Veldsman is Director of the Scholarly Publication Unit at the Academy of Sciences in South Africa, responsible for driving the Open Science agenda, to raise the visibility, discoverability and accessibility of South African scholarly journals, improve the quality of SA research output, and support the development of policy frameworks in order to facilitate optimal use and access to publicly funded research. She received the Electronic Publishing Trust (EPT) award for her outstanding contribution to the promotion of Open Access in Developing Countries. Recently, she was the Co-chair of the IAP Report on "Combatting Predatory Journals and Conferences", which was launched on the 16th March 2022. She also received special recognition for her role in establishing the SciELO SA platform in South Africa at the most recent SciELO 25 years celebrations.

