



The Academy of Science
of South Africa (ASSAf)
invites you to a webinar
on

*Don't talk to me, talk
to my agent:*

*Academics and the
agentic revolution*

Date: Wednesday, 20 May 2026
Time: 12:00 – 14:00
Platform: Zoom
RSVP: [Click here](#) to register

Join us for an engaging webinar on **Agentic AI** - the next frontier in artificial intelligence where systems can plan, make decisions, and take action toward goals with increasing autonomy. This *lekgotla* will introduce participants to the rapidly evolving world of agentic behaviour, exploring what it is, why it is generating significant excitement across research, industry, and society, and how it may transform the way we work, learn, and solve complex problems.

Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the opportunities presented by agentic AI, including its potential to enhance productivity, support innovation, and enable more adaptive and intelligent systems. At the same time, the session will take a balanced and critical view, highlighting key considerations such as reliability, human oversight, ethical use, and emerging risks as these technologies become more capable and widely deployed.

SPEAKERS



Mr Herman Blackie
School of Electrical, Electronic & Computer Engineering North-West University (NWU)
PhD candidate specialising in Next Gen Networks
Herman Blackie received his BEng (2015) and MEng (2018) in Computer and Electronic Engineering from North-West University (NWU), where he is currently pursuing a PhD in Computer Engineering. Since 2019, he has served as a Lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering, contributing to undergraduate teaching and postgraduate supervision. He runs a consulting practice focused on automation, systems modernisation, and AI-driven solutions to improve business processes. At NWU, he is involved in a pilot programme introducing Mindjoy, an AI-powered STEM learning platform, to enhance engineering education.



Prof Sioux McKenna
Rhodes University (RU)
Professor of Higher Education
Sioux McKenna runs several international projects focused on higher education as a public good. She has long researched questions of knowledge - what it does and which knowledges are silenced or sidelined - this lens means that she sees the world of GenAI as both a fascinating and terrifying new terrain. She has won awards for her teaching, research, internationalisation and for her co-authored book *Understanding Higher Education*.



Ms Tezira Wanyana
University of Cape Town (UCT)
PhD candidate specialising in Agentic AI
Tezira Wanyana is an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and a PhD candidate at the University of Cape Town, where she has recently submitted her thesis. Her research focuses on cognitive agent architectures, ontologies, Bayesian networks, and neuro-symbolic AI, with an emphasis on autonomous, reasoning systems. She is also the founder of Wanyana.Africa, a company developing intelligent software for real-world applications.