Eduvos
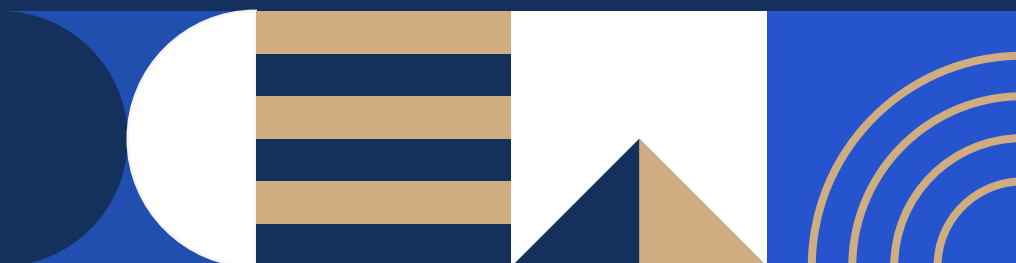## Your Education. Your Future.

2024 Eduvos
Research Report.

Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies
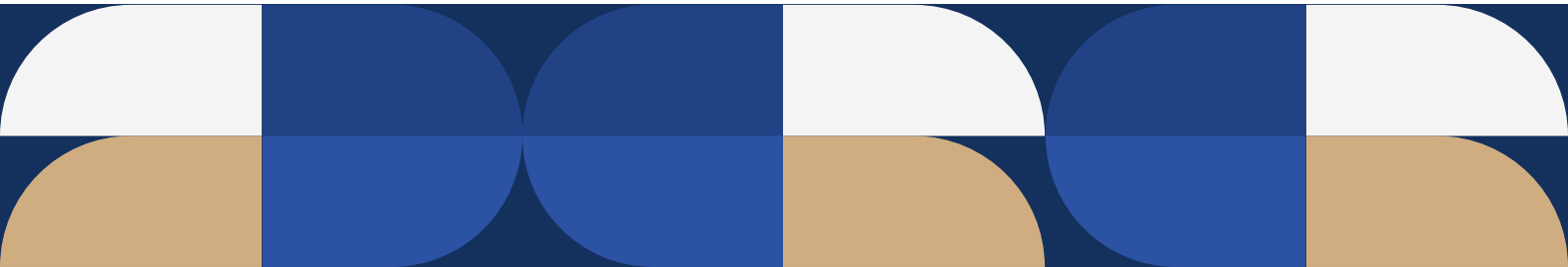
2024 Eduvos *Research* Report.

Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies

Index

2024 Eduvos *Research* Report.

Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies

1. Introduction

The Eduvos Research Report for 2024 is a reflection of our collective pursuit of knowledge, innovation, and meaningful research. This report encapsulates a year of significant strides in research at Eduvos, highlighting achievements, critical advancements, and our unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

The Eduvos Research Agenda 2023-2027 is grounded in the vision of "Empowering Sustainable Development in Africa," aligning closely with the institution's core mission of "Shaping potential, student by student, towards Africa's prosperity." Research at Eduvos serves as a catalyst for transformation, driving sustainable and equitable futures through critical focus areas that address pressing challenges in Africa - ranging from social justice and legal equality to biotechnology and artificial intelligence for social impact.

In 2024, research engagement across disciplines saw significant growth. The success of the Eduvos Research Indaba 2024 stands as a testament to this progress, featuring over 50 presenters across five thematic streams. The participation of Eduvos students in this event is particularly noteworthy, signalling a growing culture of inquiry and mentorship within the institution. Their contributions reaffirm our dedication to cultivating the next generation of researchers who will shape Africa's knowledge economy.

The establishment of the Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies marks a milestone in institutionalising and strengthening research efforts. This strategic development highlights the importance of structured research leadership, robust policy frameworks, and the necessary infrastructure to sustain high-impact research. Through the department, we intend to unlock the institution's intellectual potential, and foster an environment where research is encouraged, resourced, and recognised.

Looking ahead to 2025, priority areas include the development of a research repository, capacity development and training in research and research ethics, as well as the exploration and strengthening of external research partnerships and funding opportunities to enhance our capacity to produce impactful research.

The progress of 2024 serves as a foundation for future growth. By continuing to challenge, innovate, and collaborate, Eduvos is positioned as a leader in research that is socially responsive, ethically grounded, and transformative. Our sincere gratitude goes to every researcher, faculty member, and student whose dedication made this past year's achievements possible. Together, we are shaping a research culture that advances academic discourse and contributes meaningfully to Africa's sustainable development.

2. Eduvos Research Agenda: Empowering Sustainable Development in Africa

The Eduvos Research Agenda for 2023-2027 is driven by the vision of "Empowering Sustainable Development in Africa," aligned and informed by the institution's vision of "Shaping potential, student by student, towards Africa's prosperity." The Research Agenda places additional emphasis on the

need for sustainable development and positive societal change, and seeks to empower individuals, communities, and industries through meaningful research to drive lasting transformation in Africa.

The Research Agenda is informed by the following objectives:
- To conduct research that drives transformative change in Africa, addressing societal challenges and promoting sustainable development;
- To support the development of a skilled workforce by engaging in research enhances knowledge, skills, and innovation in various disciplines;
- To align research efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); African Union (AU) Agenda 2063; and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Vision 2050 to contribute to regional development goals;
- To conduct research that directly addresses the targets and indications of the SDGs;
- To align research efforts with the AU Agenda 2063's aspirations for a prosperous and integrated Africa;
- To focus on key areas identified in the SADC Vision 2050 for sustainable regional development.

In addition to the strategic objectives, Eduvos identified five critical focus areas to guide research:

Critical Focus Areas 2023–2027

Focus Area One: Advancing Social Justice and Legal Equality for a Prosperous Africa

This focus area emphasises the promotion of social justice, human rights, and effective governance mechanisms, and is guided by the following SDGs: SDG 5 - Gender Equality; SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities; SDG 16 — Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions; and SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals. The focus area aims to contribute to the promotion of a just and equitable society, protect human rights, strengthen democratic institutions, and foster economic prosperity in Africa. It also supports the development of a skilled labour force by empowering individuals with knowledge and understanding of their rights, responsibilities, and effective governance mechanisms.

Focus Area Two: Enhancing Organisational Performance, Sustainable Business, Entrepreneurship, and Management Practices

This focus area is concerned with investigating aspects of human resource management, entrepreneurship, business management, organisational behaviour, strategic management, financial management, and tourism management in order to develop effective management practices, sustainable business growth, and economic prosperity in Africa. The focus area is guided by the following SDGs: SDG 5 — Gender Equality; SDG 8 — Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9 — Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities; SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities and Communities. The research in this area intends to shape students' potential by fostering a mindset of innovation, sustainability, and ethical business practices.

Focus Area Three: Data Science and AI for Social Impact

This focus area places emphasis on leveraging data science, AI, software engineering, mobile computing, security, network engineering, data privacy, ethics, cloud computing, and emerging

technologies to drive positive change and address societal challenges in Africa. The focus area is informed by the following SDGs: SDG 4 — Quality Education; SDG 9 — Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; and SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals. This focus area reflects the institution's commitment to technological innovation, digital transformation, and responsible use of data-driven technologies. By leveraging these cutting-edge technologies, the theme aims to drive innovation, address societal challenges, and contribute to Africa's progress and prosperity.

Focus Area Four: Advancing Biotechnology and Biomedicine for Sustainable Agriculture, Health, Water, and the Environment

This focus area aims to explore the diverse areas of biotechnology and their applications in agriculture, healthcare, and the environment. Related fields include microbiology, agricultural biotechnology, molecular biology and biochemistry, medical biotechnology, pharmacology, industrial and environmental biotechnology, analytical chemistry, agricultural biotechnology, and various plant sciences. The focus area is informed by the following SDGS: SDG 2 — Zero Hunger; SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-being; SDG 6 — Clean Water and Sanitation; and SDG 13 - Climate Action. The research produced by this focus area seeks to contribute to sustainable development, food security, improved health outcomes, and environmental conservation.

Focus Area Five: Empowering Diversity, Wellness, and Innovative Education

This focus area explores the intersections of representation, identity, social change, language, culture, mental health, education, technology, and technique and craft. By exploring these intersections, the institution aims to empower students to address societal challenges, promote inclusivity, and enhance overall well-being in African communities. The focus area is informed by the following SDGS: SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-being; SDGs: SDG 4 — Quality Education; SDG 5 — Gender Equality; SDG 9 — Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities; SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities and Communities. The research produced within this focus area reflects the institution's commitment to inclusive representation, cultural preservation, well-being promotion, innovative education, and sustainable development.

While the above focus areas are aligned with the five faculties, transdisciplinary research is encouraged and faculties, staff, students, and external researchers are not limited to one specific focus area dependent on their associated faculty.

2024 Eduvos *Research* Report.
Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies

3. Research Leadership

At present, the Research at Eduvos is managed and strategically led by the National Research Committee (NRC) which has the following representatives on the committee:

Name	Designation
Dr Nyx McLean	Chairperson; Head of Research and Postgraduate Studies
Dr Mandi Joubert	Head of Academics
Dr Miné de Klerk	Dean: Curricula and Research
Dr Dave Naidoo	Registrar
Oscar Murombo	NRC Ethics Officer
Dr Siva Danaviah	HOP: Applied Science
Janie Steyn	HOP: Commerce
Solomon Bakare	HOP: Humanities
Dr Amos Anele	HOP: IT
Dr Tinaye Chivizhe	HOP: Law
Cheryl Smith	Head: Student Support and Student Affairs
Muleka Nengwani	NM: Design and Future Learning
Travis Subramanien	NM: Professional Development
Dr Chinedu Okonkwo	PM: IT
Judith Evans	PM: Graphic Design
Anne Nel	PM: Commerce
Dr Liz Schaller	PC: Commerce and Law
Lumanyano Ngcayisa	PC: Humanities
Dr Kaminee Maduray	PC: Applied Science
Dr Tony Matchaba-Hove	GM: Bedfordview
Dr Aveshin Reddy	Academic Student Experience Manager
Melanie Mans	Chairperson Community Engagement

2024 Eduvos *Research* Report.
Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies

4. Research Activities in 2024

The following strategic objectives drove research for the 2024 academic year:
1. Promote a culture of research excellence that encourages faculty and student engagement in high-quality research across disciplines.
2. Develop and implement an annual research plan and activities that are driven by the Eduvos Research Agenda 2023-2027.
3. Host an Annual Research Indaba aligned to the Research Agenda, industry, and community needs.
4. Pursue collaborative research initiatives that span multiple departments and faculties.
5. Promote research outputs and publications: Facilitate the dissemination of research findings through publications, conferences, and other scholarly activities.
6. Compile an institutional research report.

In seeking to meet the above objectives, several research activities were implemented in the 2024 academic year. These included: The Eduvos Research Indaba 2024; Approval of the Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies; Regular National Research Committee meetings; Best Practice Friday institution-wide research training and development; short learning programmes to support research training and development; the establishment of a dedicated Research page added to the Professional Development Site; collaborative research output tracker; Faculty research events; review of research and ethics policies and processes; and marketing of research at Eduvos.

Successful Eduvos Research Indaba 2024

The Annual Eduvos Research Indaba was a successful event, spread over three days from Wednesday 6 November to Friday 8 November 2024. There were over 50 presenters participating in five thematic streams, grouped in accordance with the institution's research focus areas. A significant number of presenters were Eduvos students, and this was a notable moment signifying the uptake in research at the undergraduate level and the commitment of academic staff to supervision and mentorship of young researchers. The level of participation and engagement has shown that there is a clear and critical need for future Research Indabas and other conference events where staff, students and external partners can share their research and work in progress.

Approval of the Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies

Given the growth of Eduvos and the necessity to establish a strong research pillar, it became apparent that a Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies was needed to drive research, postgraduate studies, and community engagement. The establishment of a Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies was approved by the Board and recruitment for the Head of Research and Postgraduate Studies was completed at the end of September 2024. Two additional roles for 2025 were approved and advertised: Research Project Manager and Research Administrator.

Research Committee Monthly Sessions

The National Research Committee (NRC) met regularly on the second Friday of every month to ensure that the Research Agenda and Strategic Objectives were being met. The committee currently comprises of 22 members representing the interests of the institution.

2024 Eduvos *Research* Report.
Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies

Notable outcomes of the monthly sessions include the conceptualisation and implementation of institution-wide research training and development that is in collaboration with the Professional Development initiative; a live collaborative research output tracker; the review and revision of the ethics application process to ensure a universal document is made available to all faculties and may be utilised by staff, students and external researchers alike; as well as the establishment of a web page for research to be promoted on the Eduvos site in collaboration with Eduvos' Marketing team.

Best Practice Friday: Institution-wide Research Training and Development

In April 2024, the NRC in collaboration with Professional Development implemented monthly institution-wide research training and development sessions through Best Practice Fridays. The sessions were well-attended, and staff were engaged and continued the conversation after the sessions had ended.

Eight (8) sessions have been held thus far:

- Introduction to Research (April);
- Supervising and Co-authoring with students (May);
- Crafting Strong Research Problem Statements and Objectives (June);
- An Introduction to Literature Reviews: Quality Sources and Identifying Gaps in Scholarships (July);
- Introduction to Methodologies and Research Design (August);
- Research Ethics: Processes and Practice (September);
- Introduction to Conferences: Presenting your Research with Impact (October); and
- Planning your Research Career (November).

Professional Development, in addition to hosting these events, have also developed Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) to supplement and support the research training and development sessions. The above sessions were identified as priority in advancing research at Eduvos for 2024.

Short Learning Programmes: Research

In collaboration with the NRC, Professional Development supports the institution-wide research training and development sessions by designing and developing Short Learning Programmes (SLPs). Staff are enrolled to the SLPs and are able to complete the modules in their own time.

Currently five SLPs have been developed:
1. Introduction to Research;
2. A Guide to Research Supervision;
3. Formulating a Problem Statement and Objectives;
4. Research Publication; and
5. Writing a Literature Review.

Professional Development Site: Research Page

A central page was developed by Professional Development as a repository for staff to access research resources. This is inclusive of the Best Practice Friday institution-wide research training

and development session recordings and slides; the Short Learning Programmes; the Department of Higher Education and Technology's list of accredited journals; and Eduvos's collaborative research output tracker. The site has increasingly been utilised as a research support resource and central point, in addition to the website, for accessing resources and documents such as the ethics application forms, and conference calls.

Collaborative Research Output Tracker

In order to track research outputs at Eduvos, the NRC developed the Research Output Tracker. Hosted on the Professional Development site's Research page,the tracker simplifies the output tracking process by hosting the document in a centralised location where all staff can access the files. Staff may upload information to the tracker in their own time, and the NRC will regularly monitor the current output rate for the institution.

The NRC decided to host the tracker live and visible to all as a mechanism to encourage an active and transparent research culture. In addition, the visibility of the tracker is envisioned as a celebratory and motivational tool among staff. An option has been made available to staff for private submissions, in line with South Africa's Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI Act), should they not wish to make this data publicly available.

Faculty Research Events

Faculties have reported several research events and activities have now been included as a standing NRC agenda item. A few notable mentions include:
- Commerce and Law Symposium: Intellectual Property Law/Artificial Intelligence: 31 May 2024
- Humanities Research Event: Academics, Let's Chat Research: 31 May 2024
- Applied Science planned information sessions, including Clinical Trials in Block 2
- Information Technology student work presentation at the end of Block 2
- Humanities Graphic Design's Experimental Playground: October 2024

All Faculties have committed to drive and support research events in 2025, including the hosting of a conference event per faculty.

Review of Policies and Processes

Two NRC policies, the Higher Degrees Policy and the Research Policy underwent review through the institution's Fit for Purpose Policy Review Project.

The Higher Degrees Policy, a relatively new policy, underwent review in Batch 1 of the Fit for Purpose Policy Review. The Higher Degrees policy was accepted and adopted in October 2024. The Research Policy, a Batch 2 policy, underwent major review and amendment and is awaiting final input from the Deans intending to be presented at the final Senate meeting of the 2024 academic year.

The NRC undertook in the first half of the academic year a review of the Ethics Application form documentation and processes. The application form has been revised to be accessible to all faculties as well as ensuring a universal ethics application process for all staff, students (including

undergraduate and postgraduate students), and external researchers. In September 2024, staff were trained in the use of the form, and this recording is available on the Professional Development Research page. Training for students is under development.

Furthermore, a National Ethics Committee structure has been put in place and consideration is currently being given to the establishment of Faculty Ethics Committees, as well as accompanying guidelines and processes to ensure a universal application ethics process across the institution.

Marketing of Research at Eduvos

Research at Eduvos now has a dedicated page on the Eduvos website: https://www.eduvos.com/research/. The Marketing team, with the NRC, developed the page to promote the institution's research agenda, research activities, and provide access to resources such as the Ethics Application Form.
In time, the page will be utilised for showcasing researcher profiles, research projects, and thought leadership contributions in order to continue to promote the strides Eduvos is making in research.

5. Research Outputs

Eduvos staff have made some research contributions this academic year. To date, there has been a total of forty-five (45) documented research outputs. There have been sixteen (16) articles; six (6) book chapters; and twenty-three (23) conference presentations. The faculty specific research outputs indicate that the Faculty of Commerce and Law and the Faculty of Humanities have been the most productive faculties to date, with thirteen (13) outputs each.

Outputs per faculty:
· Applied Science: two (2) outputs
· Commerce and Law: eighteen (18) outputs
· Humanities: seventeen (17) outputs
· Information Technology: eight (8) outputs

While research outputs have increased from seventeen (17) to forty-five (45) outputs since July 2024, the NRC still considers the documented research output rate to be low. The NRC will continue to encourage faculties to document their research outputs to ensure that all research outputs are reflected on the tracker.

Details Regarding the Documented Research Outputs

Articles

Sixteen (16) journal articles have been published in 2024 thus far, two (2) from the Faculty of Applied Science, six (6) from the Faculty of Commerce and Law, three (3) from the Faculty of Humanities, and five (5) from the Faculty of Information Technology.

Faculty of Applied Science

· Michael, H.U., Rapulana, A.M., Smit, T., Xulu, N., Danaviah, S., Ramlall, S. and Oosthuizen, F. 2024. The

- Association between Serum Mature and Precursor Brain-derived Neurotrophic Factor and Neurocognitive Function in People Living with HIV: A Longitudinal Study. In Open Forum Infectious Diseases Vol 11 (8). https://doi.org/10.1093/ofid/ofae463
- Nkala, B.A. and Gqaleni, N. 2024. The Analysis of Cytotoxicity of Durban Residential House Dust Extracts on Human Lung Bronchial Epithelial Cell Line (A549) and Human Lung Bronchus Virus Transformed Epithelial Cell Line (ATCC No. CRL — 9482 BBM). In Acta Scientific Microbiology Vol 7(8). https://actascientific.com/ASMI/pdf/ASMI-07-1418.pdf

Faculty of Commerce and Law

- Chivizhe, T. 2024. The Identity of the Beneficiary or Presenter Calling for Payment Under Demand Guarantees: A Purposive Approach. In Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal Vol 27. http://dx.doi.org/10.17159/1727-3781/2024/v27i0a17918
- Mokofe. M.M. 2024. The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Unemployment in South Africa: A Continuing Challenge. In Kazan University Law Review Vol 1(9). http://dx.doi.org/10.30729/2541-8823-2024-9-1-7-27
- Mokofe. M.M. 2024. Digital Transformations of the South African Legal Landscape. In Journal of Digital Technologies and Law. https://doi.org/10.21202/jdtl.2023.47
- Mokofe. M.M. 2024. Employment Implications for Naturalized South African Citizens. In International Journal of Law in the Changing World Vol 2 (2). https://doi.org/10.54934/ijlcw.v2i2.64
- Niemand, L., Swart, B., Cordier, W. and Gordon, C. 2024. Exploring the knowledge and attitudes of final-year medical students regarding sexual and gender minorities at a South African institution. In Undergraduate Research in Health Journal Vol 2 (2). https://samajournals.co.za/index.php/urhj/article/view/2252
- Sithole, M.S. 2024. The Role and Impact of Private Higher Education Institutions on South Africa's Educational Sector: A Comprehensive Analysis. In International Journal of Social Science and Human Resources Vol 7 (3). https://ijsshr.in/v7i3/19.php

Faculty of Humanities

- Kruger, L. and Kruger, G. 2024. Locating the dark triad traits within the interpersonal circumplex: A multicultural perspective. In International Journal of Personality Psychology Vol 10. https://ijpp.rug.nl/article/view/41570
- Mkhize, N., Moyo, S., and Mahoa, S. 2024. African Solutions to African Problems: A Narrative of Corruption in Postcolonial Africa. In Cogent Social Sciences Vol 10 (1). https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2024.2327133
- Scholtz, M. 2024. Notions of the Visible and the Invisible: Visualising the Otherness of Women with Invisible (Gynaecological) Illness. In Visual Studies. https://doi.org/10.1080/1472586X.2024.2378318

Faculty of Information Technology

- Babalola, O.P. and Versfeld, J. 2024. Wavelet-based feature extraction with hidden Markov model classification of Antarctic blue whale sounds. In Ecological Informatics Vol 80. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoinf.2024.102468.
- Matanga, Y. 2024. Niching Global Optimisation: Systematic Literature Review. In MDPI: Algorithms Vol 17 (10). https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4893/17/10/448
- Ogundile, O.M., Owoade, A.A., Ogundile, O.O., and Babalola, O.P. 2024. Linear discriminant analysis

based hidden Markov model for detection of Mysticetes' vocalisations. In Scientific African Vol 24. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sciaf.2024.e02128.

- Usman, A.M. and Versfeld, D.J.J. 2024. Principal components-based hidden Markov model for automatic detection of whale vocalisations. In Journal of Marine Systems Vol 242. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmarsys.2023.103941

- Usman, A.M., Surajudeen-Bakinde, N., Ojiemhende, F., Afolabi, S., Oloyede, A., and Zakariya, O.S. 2024. Dynamic mode decomposition-based features for ovarian cancer gene expression classification using machine learning. In Nigerian Journal of Technological Development Vol 21 (3). https://www.ajol.info/index.php/njtd/article/view/279879

Chapters

Six book chapters have been produced, with three of these produced by a single author in the Faculty of Commerce and Law.

- Kamffer, L. 2024. Digital Marketing. In Cant, M.C., van Heerden, C.H., and Makhitha, M.M. (Eds). Marketing Management: A South African Perspective (4th Edition). Juta: Claremont, South Africa.
- Kamffer, L. 2024. Advertising Formats and Creative Strategies. In Gowpall, Y. (Ed). Digital Advertising. Juta: Claremont, South Africa.
- Kamffer, L. 2024. Consumer Behaviour. Kamffer, L., Gowpall, Y. and Cant, M.C. (Eds). Marketing Management (5th Edition). Juta: Claremont, South Africa.
- Maregere, L. 2024. Unleashing entrepreneurial potential: The transformative impact of artificial intelligence. In Muchenje, C., Mtengwa, E., and Maregere, L.L. (Eds). AI driven marketing research and data driven analytics. IGI Global.
- Maregere, L. 2024. Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML): Enhancing supply chain resilience and efficiency. In Muchenje, C., Mtengwa, E., Maregere, L. and Masengu, R. (Eds). Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML): Enhancing supply chain resilience and efficiency. IGI Global.
- McLean, N. 2024. Keeping Each Other Safe: Transgender People's Online Solidarity Strategies. In Bosch, T. and Roberts, T. (Eds). Feminist Digital Citizenship in Africa: Transformative Online Feminism. Zed Books.

Presentations: Conferences and Seminars

The Faculty of Commerce and Law, the Faculty of Humanities, and the Faculty of Information Technology have contributed twenty-three (23) presentations, with Commerce and Law presenting at seven (7) events, Humanities at thirteen (13), and Information Technology at three (3). The details of which are listed below.

Faculty of Commerce and Law

- Chivizhe, T. January 2024. The Identify of the Beneficiary Calling for Payment Under Demand Guarantees. Presented at the Southern African Law Teachers Conference at the North-West University, Potchefstroom. https://law.nwu.ac.za/saltc-2024
- Jijita, S-H. January 2024. The Future of Subjective Impossibility of Performance in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Presented at Southern African Law Teachers' Conference at the North-West University,

Potchefstroom. https://law.nwu.ac.za/saltc-2024
- Ledwaba, L. August 2024. Perceptions and Experiences of Employees on the Adoption and Continued Use of High Performance Computing in a Historically Disadvantaged Institution. Presented at the Mbali 2024 FCAL Conference at the University of Zululand, Durban. https://mbali.unizulu.ac.za/
- Nyamangirazi, N. January 2024. South Africa and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): A Doorway to Improving Social Justice? Presented at the Southern African Law Teachers Conference at the North-West University, Potchefstroom. https://law.nwu.ac.za/saltc-2024
- Nyamangirazi, N. June 2024. Whether the AfCTA satisfies the requirements for WTO legality under the applicable law governing RTAs. Presented at the First Annual Colloquium on Trade and Industrial Policy (ACTIP) at Wits University, Johannesburg.
- Shingai-Harry, J. January 2024. The future of subjective impossibility of performance in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Presented at the Southern African Law Teachers' Conference at North-West University, Potchefstroom. https://law.nwu.ac.za/saltc-2024
- Sithole, M. August 2024. A Causal Relationship Between Financial Intermediation And Economic Growth: A Case Study Of South Africa. Presented at the Mbali 2024 FCAL Conference at the University of Zululand, Durban. https://mbali.unizulu.ac.za/

Faculty of Humanities

- Baba, A. August 2024. The role of the constitutionally designed institutions and government structures in preventing ethnic conflict in Kenya. Presented at the International Conference on the Mau Mau Movement at University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Edwards, R. March 2024. Exploring Intersections: Moxyland, Cyberpunk 2077, and Cape Town: Bridging Humanities and Sciences in Crisis Mitigation. Presented at the Amazwi Literature, Heritage, Ecology Conference at the Amazwi South African Museum of Literature, Makhanda. https://www.amazwi.museum
- Maregere, L. August 2024. Assessing the participation and inclusion of women in green initiatives in South Africa. Presented at Women's Impact Innovation and Sustainability in Africa at the University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg.
- Maregere, L. October 2024. An analysis and suggestions to capital access challenges faced by women-led SMEs in agribusiness in Zimbabwe. Presented at Social Sciences International Research Conference (SSIRC) at North West University, Mauritius.
- McLean, N. March 2024. Keeping Research Participants Safe Online. Presented at the Feminist Internet Research Network: Digital Safety and Security at the Association for Progressive Communications, Global. https://firn.genderit.org
- McLean, N. April 2024. An Inclusive, Intersectional and Care-Full Journalism Curriculum. Presented at the Seeds of Change: Cultivating the Future of Journalism in Africa Colloquium at the School of Journalism and Media Studies, Rhodes University, Makhanda. https://jmssummit.co.za
- McLean, N. May 2024. Carefully Navigating the Messiness of Community Engaged Research. Presented at the International Conference on Community Engagement at Rhodes University, Makhanda.https://www.ru.ac.za/communityengagement/engagedresearch/internationalcommunityengagementconference/
- McLean, N. May 2024. Protecting Minority Groups from Digital Targeting. Presented at Digital Dialogues at the International Civil Society Centre and the Civic Tech Innovation Network, Remote. https://icscentre.org/events/digital-dialogue-protecting-minority-groups-from-digital-targeting/

- McLean, N. August 2024. Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence to Safeguard Digital Spaces. Presented for United Nations University International Institute for Global Health, School of Public Health at the University of Western Cape in South Africa, the African Union Commission on COVID-19 Gender and Stigmatisation Working Group, PATH, and the Pandemic Action Network, Remote.
- McLean, N and De Klerk, M. August 2024. Artificial Intelligence: Key Considerations for AI Implementation and Risk Management. Presented at Institute of Risk Management Regional Interest Group South Africa: Resilience Amid Climate, Energy and AI Challenges at Institute of Risk Management and Eduvos. Midrand.
- McLean, N. September 2024. Keeping Each Other Safe: Transgender People's Online Solidarity Strategies. Presented at SACOMM: The Politics of the Present at Stellenbosch University. https://sacomm.org.za/sacomm-2024/
- Scholtz, M. October 2024. The impact of artificially generated design: redesigning the framework and learning outcomes of professional and portfolio practice in the visual arts. Presented at International Conference on Teaching, Assessment and Learning in the Digital Age – digiTAL 2024. Remote. https://icdigital.org.za
- Tesoriero, T. September 2024. Educating for Future Employment. Presented at AviJozi 2024 in Johannesburg. https://avijozi.com/

Faculty of Information Technology

- Anele, A., Okonkwo, C., Asmal, S. October 2024. The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Personalised Learning: Opportunities, Challenges, and Ethical Considerations. Presented at Fifth International Conference on Teaching, Assessment and Learning in the Digital Age at Open University of Mauritius. https://icdigital.org.za/
- Matanga, Y. 2024. Enhancing FIR Filter design with sequential niching metaheuristics: an optimal approach. Presented at IEEE ETNCC Conference.
- Matanga, Y. 2024. Scalability Analysis of Competing Niching Paradigms in Swarm Intelligence: Sequential Vs Parallel. Presented at IEEE IEMCON.
- Okonkwo, C., Anele, A., and Shikari, K. October 2024. Exploring the Potential of Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality Technologies in Transforming Teaching and Learning. Presented at Fifth International Conference on Teaching, Assessment and Learning in the Digital Age at Open University of Mauritius. https://icdigital.org.za/

Further study

Included in the output tracker is a page for further study. Twenty-three (23) staff members have indicated they are pursuing further studies. Of this number there are: nine doctorates underway; twelve masters; one honours; and one advanced diploma.

6. Concluding Remarks

The Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies and the National Research Committee (NRC) is committed to the continued establishment and strengthening of research at Eduvos. In 2025, the Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies and the National Research Committee will prioritise the following areas: the development of the Eduvos Research Repository; strategic partnerships and collaborations; research funding opportunities, including research grants and awards; staff training

and development in research and ethics matters; student training and development in research and ethics matters; drive meaningful, high-impact and high-quality research outputs; publication incentives and conference credits; establish Faculty and Campus Research Ethics Committees; engaged research and community engagement partnerships; Faculty research conference and other research events; and the 2025 Eduvos Research Indaba.

The Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies endeavours to drive the strategic vision of the institution through the Research Agenda and Strategic Objectives in order to ensure that Eduvos is recognised for the contribution it makes through its endeavour to Empower Sustainable Development in Africa through empowering individuals, communities, and industries through meaningful research to drive lasting transformation in Africa.

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