

VIRTUAL INDABA INVITATION

25
JUNE
2025

MS Teams
13:00 - 15:10 SAST

African Languages and Internationalisation:
Realities, Challenges and Opportunities for Intra-Africa Academic Collaboration

Hosted By: The Durban University of Technology, International Education and Partnerships Directorate

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This virtual indaba explores how Africa's linguistic diversity can strengthen internationalisation in higher education.*

Indigenous languages offer powerful pathways for knowledge exchange, deeper research insights, and inclusive collaboration.

Join us as we explore practical strategies for using language as a tool for meaningful, Africa-centred academic partnerships.



Topic:
Harnessing the Power of African Languages in Academic Collaborations



Topic:
Transforming Curricula Through African Languages: Building Inclusive, Africa-Centred Academic Partnerships

- 13:05 - 13:35

Presentation
by Dr. Lang Fafa Dampha
- 13:35- 13:40

Q&A for Dr. Dampha
- 13:35 - 14:05

Breakaway Session
Group One With Dr. Lang Fafa Dampha

African Languages as Bridges: Creating Collaborative Knowledge Networks

- 13:40 - 14:10

Presentation
by Prof. Yolisa Madolo
- 14:10-14:15

Q&A for Prof. Madolo
- 14:10 - 14: 40

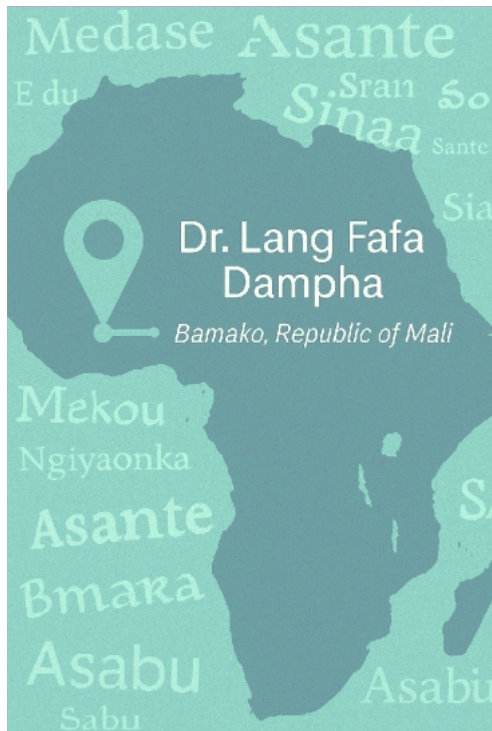
Breakaway Session
Group Two with Prof. Yolisa Madolo

Decolonising Curricula Through African Languages: Advancing Collaboration and the Africa We Want



Session Chair: Dr Zempilo Gumede
African Languages and Internationalisation
14:15-14:25: Breakaway group instructions

Speaker Profiles



Lang Fafa Dampha, born in The Gambia, lived and worked in Paris from 1989 to 2009. He holds a BA in English Language, Literature, and Civilisation from the University of Paris 7 Jussieu and a PhD in English Studies (Civilisation, Society, and Culture) from the University of Paris IV Sorbonne.

For two years, he taught Legal English (Law and Politics– UK/USA) at the University of Paris 2 – Panthéon-Assas, Economic English (covering banking, finance, the stock market, and the history of economic thought) at the University of Paris 8 - Saint-Denis, and English for Economic and Social Administration at the University of Paris 13 - Villetaneuse.

In November 2009, he returned to Africa and is currently based in Bamako, Mali, where he serves as the Executive Secretary of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), a specialised agency of the African Union, until his retirement on 31 May 2025. Additionally, from May 2021 to November 2022, he served as Interim Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration (ACSRM), another African Union specialised institution.

Yolisa Madolo is an Associate Professor in the Department of African Languages at Walter Sisulu University. Her academic focus centres on children’s literature in African languages, translation theory and practice, literary criticism, and indigenous language pedagogy, with particular emphasis on isiXhosa.

She holds a PhD in African Languages from Rhodes University, with her doctoral thesis “Uphicotho lweencwadi zabantwana ezikhethiweyo eziguqulelelwe esiXhoseni” examining the translation of children’s books into isiXhosa. Her Master’s research, “Uphononongo loguqulelo lwezaci namaqhalo kwincwadi kaCalana ethi, ‘Xhosa Proverbs,’” explored the translation of proverbs and idioms.



Prof. Madolo has contributed significantly to academic discourse through her publications in respected journals, including the South African Journal of African Languages, Southern African Linguistics, and Applied Language Studies. Her work examines translation strategies, sociolinguistics, and representation in African literature, contributing to important conversations about the role of African languages in educational contexts.



Zempilo Silindokuhle Gumedede is an accomplished academic and dedicated advocate for African languages, particularly isiZulu. She holds a PhD in African Languages and Culture and currently serves as a Lecturer, Research Coordinator, and Chairperson of the Departmental Research Committee in the School of Education at the Durban University of Technology.

With over ten years in higher education, she has worked for several South African universities and contributed extensively to teaching, postgraduate supervision, and curriculum development. Her research focused on isiZulu language preservation, sociolinguistics, linguistics, and cultural identity, and has been widely published and presented internationally.

A recipient of a PANSALB award for excellence in Language and Literature, she is also an active member of the African Language Association of Southern Africa (ALASA), advancing the promotion and preservation of African languages through academic and community engagement.

This virtual Indaba is part of the Capacity Building for Africa-Centred Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa project named the African Partnerships Universities Alliance (APUA), funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) through its University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP). The project brings together ten South African universities committed to transforming how they engage with higher education institutions across the African continent.