



NITheCS Colloquium

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National Institute for
Theoretical and Computational Sciences



Building an AI Future for the Western Cape *Launch of the Western Cape AI Cluster*

Dr Nick Bradshaw (South African AI Association)

Monday, 13 July 2026 | 16h00–17h00 SAST

HOW TO ATTEND:

In person (main venue):

- Road House Cinema
(Neelsie)
Stellenbosch University

Watch at a satellite venue:

- MITP Boardroom P215
2nd floor, Physics Building
University of the Witwatersrand
- Seminar Room K310
Physics Building G5
North-West University

Online (live stream)

--- Please note, a recording of the lecture will be published on the NITheCS YouTube channel following the event ---

ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping economies, public services and research worldwide. To position the Western Cape as a leading AI hub, the South African AI Association, in partnership with the Western Cape Government, is launching the Western Cape AI Cluster (WCAIC) – a three-year, multi-stakeholder initiative that will bring together government, academia, industry, entrepreneurs, investors and civil society to accelerate responsible AI innovation and adoption.

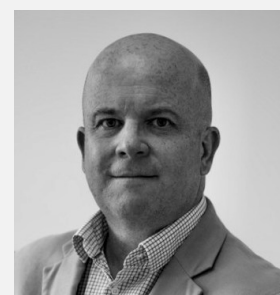
This colloquium will introduce the vision and objectives of the Western Cape AI Cluster, highlighting its role in fostering collaboration across key focus areas including Responsible AI policy and governance, AI infrastructure and sovereign AI, service delivery, AI education, cutting-edge research, and the province's growing AI startup and investment ecosystem. The session will explore how these collaborative efforts aim to strengthen the Western Cape's AI capabilities while ensuring that AI development is ethical, inclusive and delivers meaningful societal impact.

The colloquium will also provide an overview of the inaugural Activate SA Summit Cape Town (25–27 August), a province-wide AI summit focused on advancing AI adoption across government, industry and communities. Participants will gain insight into opportunities for engagement, collaboration and research, and how the AI community can help build an AI ecosystem that serves citizens while supporting economic growth and scientific excellence.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Nick Bradshaw has more than 25 years of experience in the technology sector, having worked across Europe, North America and Africa.

He is the founder of AI Expo Africa, *The State of AI in Africa Report*, and *Synapse Magazine*, and serves as the Founder and Chair of the South African AI Association (SAAIA). Through these initiatives, he is driving the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence while fostering the growth of South Africa's AI ecosystem through collaboration between industry, government, academia and the broader innovation community.



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