

NITheCS Mini-school

NITheCS
National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Sciences

Generative AI in Academia

Dr Sonja Strydom (Stellenbosch University) & Ms Selene Delport (Stellenbosch University)

Attend 3 online lectures:

Streamed from the NITheCS Seminar Room, Stellenbosch University.

Wed, 14 October 2026 | 14h00-15h00 SAST
Wed, 21 October 2026 | 14h00-15h00 SAST
Wed, 28 October 2026 | 14h00-16h00 SAST

LECTURES 1 & 2 (14 & 21 October)

'Generative AI in Academia: Building critical digital literacies'

Dr Sonja Strydom (Stellenbosch University)

Before deciding how to use GenAI in your academic writing, it helps to understand where you stand, and why. Across two interactive sessions, we step back from tools and techniques to examine the beliefs and values that shape our choices. The first session invites you to surface and share your own stance on using GenAI for academic writing, and to explore how and why these stances differ across individuals and disciplines. The second session introduces a set of human–GenAI paradigms as a lens for making meaning of these stances, helping you articulate a considered, defensible position to carry into your own writing practice.

LECTURE 3 (28 October)

'Generative AI in Academia: Practical Approaches to Academic Writing'

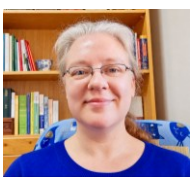
Ms Selene Delport (Stellenbosch University)

Writing academically can be challenging enough without having to navigate questions about how, when, and whether to use GenAI in the process. Particularly challenging is developing your own academic voice, to which GenAI adds a further level of uncertainty. This interactive session focuses on developing and maintaining your own academic voice while exploring how GenAI can be used to support your writing process. The session will give you practical ways to use GenAI as writing support without allowing it to replace your thinking, judgement or voice.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Sonja Strydom is Deputy Director at Stellenbosch University's Centre for Learning Technologies and a Research Fellow at its Centre for Higher and Adult Education. Her expertise spans higher education studies, academic development, curriculum renewal and digital technology. She holds a PhD in Higher Education Studies and a DLitt et Phil in Psychology. Her research explores social justice pedagogies and GenAI; teaching, learning and assessment in the post-digital landscape; the role of student voice in digital innovation practices; and epistemological literacies in GenAI engagement.



Selene Delport is the Postgraduate Workshop Coordinator at Stellenbosch University's Writing Lab. She previously tutored in various SU departments, including the English Literature Department, Unit for Document Design and SciMathUS. She joined the Writing Lab team as a consultant in 2006 and has presented thesis and dissertation writing skills workshops to postgraduate students since 2009. She has also developed postgraduate workshops on research proposals, academic articles and argumentation.

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