



# NITheCS

National Institute for  
Theoretical and Computational Sciences

## COLLOQUIUM

# Out of this World and into the Next

Dr Adriana Marais

(Foundation for Space Development Africa, Proudly Human, NITheCS)

**DATE:** Monday, 10 November 2025 | 16h00–17h00 SAST

**VENUES:**

- **Stellenbosch University:** Neelsie Cinema
- **University of the Witwatersrand:** Room P215, 2nd Floor, Physics Building
- **North-West University:** Seminar Room K310, Physics Building G5
- **Online**

--- A recording of the talk will be published on the NITheCS YouTube channel afterwards ---

### ABSTRACT

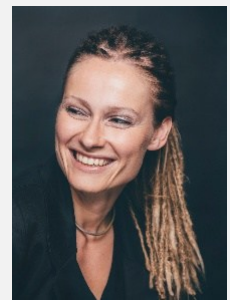
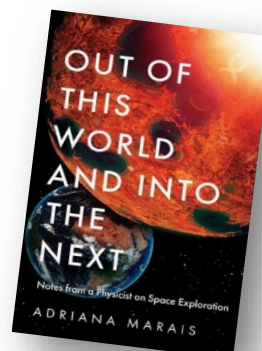
For the first time in Earth's 4-billion-year history, humanity is preparing to expand beyond home, with permanent bases on the Moon planned for this decade as a gateway to Mars and beyond. Dr Adriana Marais has dedicated herself to preparing for extraplanetary expansion, considering not just the scientific and technical possibilities, but also the ethical responsibilities it entails. In this presentation she will discuss the role of Africa in space exploration, with a particular focus on the imminent establishment of research stations at the lunar south pole.

### BIOGRAPHY

Dr Adriana Marais has a background in theoretical physics. Her PhD and postdoctoral research focused on quantum effects in biology and the origins of the building blocks of life in space. Since 2017, she has served as a Director at the Foundation for Space Development Africa, and as Head of Science for the Foundation's Africa2Moon Project, which has been selected for launch to the lunar south pole with China's upcoming Chang'e-8 mission. Africa2Moon will be Africa's first mission to the Moon and will host the first lunar radio telescope of its kind, performing new science not possible from Earth.

In 2019, Adriana left her position as Head of Innovation at SAP Africa to found Proudly Human. She is currently leading the organisation's Off-World Project, in preparation for extreme conditions on Earth and beyond. Adriana is also a researcher at Stellenbosch University and NITheCS, an expert at the Singularity University in California, and a member of the committee on Space Resources of the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator.

Her book, *Out of this World and into the Next*, published earlier this year by Profile Books, is available at local bookstores and on Amazon and Audible.



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