

NITheCS COLLOQUIUM South African Mathematical Sciences Research Landscape in 2050

Prof Loyiso Nongxa (University of the Witwatersrand)

Monday, 12 June 2023 | 16h00 – 17h00 SAST

Venue: in person* and online

* *Neelsie Cinema, Stellenbosch University*

--- Cheese and wine will be served at the venue ---

ABSTRACT

In this presentation we speculate on how the research landscape in South Africa might look like in 27 years' time. We examine this through the lens of the profile of early career mathematical scientists, their research interests as well as areas of research concentration on the current landscape.

BIOGRAPHY

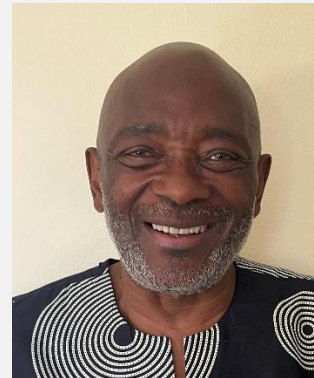
Prof Loyiso G. Nongxa retired as Ad Hominem Professor of Mathematics at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) in 2018, after 18 years at the university.

From 2000 until 2013 he served on the Senior Executive Team of WITS: from 2000 until 2002 as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and from 2003 until 2013 as Vice-Chancellor and Principal. He is currently Professor Emeritus at WITS, Honorary Professor at the University of Pretoria and Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

He attended Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship and obtained his doctorate in Mathematics in 1982. Prior to that, he completed his BSc (Honours) degrees in Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics and an MSc in Mathematics at the University of Fort Hare. He has taught at the National University of Lesotho, the former University of Natal in Durban, UWC and WITS. Prior to moving to university management, his research interests were in Group Theory. His academic interests have been in the Mathematical Foundations of Data Science and Machine Learning.

Prof Nongxa was elected as a Vice-President of the International Mathematical Union (IMU) in 2018. From 2019 to 2022 he served as the liaison between the IMU and UNESCO, and the International Science Council.

He served as the Chairperson of the Board of the NRF from 2014 to 2018. He was appointed by the Minister of Higher Education and Training as Administrator of the University of Fort Hare for 2019 to 2020. He has also been a champion of the National Graduate Academy for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences for the last few years.



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