

NITheCS COLLOQUIUM:

A Century of Biophotons

Dr Adriana Marais (Stellenbosch University)

Monday, 20 November 2023 | 16h00 – 17h00 SAST

Venue: in person* and online

* Neelsie Cinema, Stellenbosch University

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

ABSTRACT

In 1923, Alexander Gurwitsch first observed ultraweak ultraviolet biological photon emissions and their apparent ability to stimulate growth in nearby living tissue. One hundred years later, researchers continue to investigate the physical properties of biophotons, their role in biological regulation, as well as applications for example in medical therapy and diagnosis. This presentation gives a broad overview of the history and future of the theoretical, computational and technological applications of the science of biophotons.

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.

Adriana is currently a researcher at Stellenbosch University and NITheCS, and faculty at the Singularity University. She is also a director at the Foundation for Space Development Africa, preparing Africa's first mission to the Moon, the Africa2Moon Project. She is scientific moderator on space resources with the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator and chair of space sciences at Tod'Aérs Aeronautics and Space Research.

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. Her book, *'Mission: Off-World'*, will be published globally in early 2024.



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