



NITheCS

National Institute for
Theoretical and Computational Sciences

COLLOQUIUM

Panel discussion and Q&A on African Artificial Intelligence

Dr Mark Nasila (First National Bank)

Panellists: Prof Bruce Bassett (University of Cape Town), Prof Kanshukan Rajaratnam (Stellenbosch University), Prof Brian Ganson (Stellenbosch University) and Prof Francesco Petruccione (NITheCS Director)

DATE: Monday, 22 July 2024 | 16h00–17h00 SAST

VENUES:

- Neelsie Cinema, Stellenbosch University
- Online

ABSTRACT

'*African Artificial Intelligence*', a recently published book authored by Dr Mark Nasila, is a comprehensive and fascinating journey that traces the rise of AI and its evolution into the emerging technology underpinning all others, from connected devices and smart chatbots to the metaverse. Dr Nasila combines unexpected use cases and tales of cutting-edge innovation with a unique and potent argument: harnessing AI to solve Africa's problems requires embracing it from an African perspective.

African nations can't afford to simply import AI solutions from afar. Instead, they need to rework, remix and refine AI so it's able to meet uniquely African challenges in uniquely African ways, and to take advantage of the once-in-a-generation opportunity AI represents for every industry, sector and person, everywhere.

This event will feature a panel discussion and Q&A session on '*African Artificial Intelligence*' with Dr Nasila, alongside panellists Prof Bruce Bassett (UCT), Prof Kanshu Rajaratnam (SU), Prof Brian Ganson (SU) and Prof Francesco Petruccione (NITheCS).

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Mark Nasila is a luminary in AI and data science, and the Chief Data and Analytics Officer at First National Bank. He also shares his expertise at the Singularity Group, specialising in AI, data science and data strategies. He is a leading member of NITheCS, a research fellow at Stellenbosch University, and a Professor of Practice in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Johannesburg.

Dr Nasila's innovative approach at FNB has revolutionised risk management and forensic due diligence through advanced AI systems, setting new benchmarks in banking technology. He is a renowned speaker, gracing stages at the likes of the Business-Tech Digital Banking Conference, Chief Data & Analytics Officer forums, & SingularityU SA Summit sharing insights into the future of AI & big data.



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