

# COVID-19 and insights from Humanities, Social Sciences and IKS: Perspectives from the Global South Webinar Series



Prof Pamela Maseko, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities in collaboration with the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, of the North-West University and the Faculty of Human Sciences, Namibia University of Science and Technology, cordially invites you to take part in an online webinar series. This webinar series was developed to explore the role of Human and Social Sciences during a global pandemic and to foster engagement and discourses on how the current responses have harnessed knowledge systems and research from the global south.

Webinar Series will be premiered by Mocholoko Zulumathabo Zulu, Ms Madgele-na Nghiiki and Ms Seno Namwandi with Presentation on: "Research Cooperation, Intellectual Property and Dissemination"

**Date, Time and Platform:** 13 August 2020, 16:00 - 17:30; Zoom  
(Link to be provided)

**RSVP by registering online:** <https://forms.gle/HCgyN47RQsgN62kA6>  
by not later than 13 August 2020, 08:00

There are limited spaces available, so avoid disappointment and register today  
*Struggling with filling in the form:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjvj2e3MXkl#:~:text=Normally%2C%20everyone%20can%20fill%20out,you%20should%20uncheck%20that%20option>



## For more information, please contact

Mrs Jani van der Vyver / Dr Mokgadi Molope (NWU) / Dr Tichaona Mazarire  
/ Ms Kuda Brandt (NUST)

by sending an email to [Jani.vandervyver@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Jani.vandervyver@nwu.ac.za) /  
[mokgadi.molope@nwu.ac.za](mailto:mokgadi.molope@nwu.ac.za) / [tmazarire@nust.na](mailto:tmazarire@nust.na) / [kbrandt@nust.na](mailto:kbrandt@nust.na)

NOTIFICATION





## Profile of Key Note Speaker: Mocholoko (Dr), Zulumathabo Zulu

Mocholoko (Dr), Zulumathabo Zulu is a doctoral practitioner; metaphysical scientist; inventor; author of books and software engineer with experience in North America. He completed doctoral dissertation with Basotho School of Mophato in 2017. He completed Honours in Mathematics and Computing Science in 1997 and Post-Graduate in Object Oriented Analysis and Design in 1998 in Canada. His latest scholarly paper is African Drum Telegraphy and Indigenous Innovation for the University of Pretoria. Zulu is a Research Scientist and Director for Madisebo University College Institute in Sandton. He is a member of American Mathematical Society, Association of Computing Machinery and ANFASA.

**Topic: Historiography and Philosophy of Indigenous Innovation - by Mocholoko (Dr), Zulumathabo Zulu**

There is always a debate about whether Africans have contributed to the scientific body of knowledge and consequently to World Civilisations. European philosophers like George Hegel in his book Philosophy of History argues that Africans have contributed nothing to World Civilisations. This raises the challenge of historiographical and philosophical implications with respect to innovation. This presentation will show herein that innovations made in the knowledge disciplines of medicine; architecture; mathematics and technology are based on the intellectual achievements of the erudite African ancestors who have gone before us.



INNOVATION





## Profile of Key Note Speaker: Ms Magdalena Nghiiki

Ms Magdalena Nghiiki holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Psychology from the University of Namibia; Advanced Diploma in Intellectual Property (IP) and Innovation from UNISA and a Master's degree in Intellectual Property from Africa University. She believes in demystifying, promoting and integrating Intellectual Property knowledge in Namibia to boost socio-economic development. What attracted her to the world of IP is the combination of intellectual property and human capital as a potent economic force in today's knowledge-based economy. She works on IP related matters on a part-time basis. She is currently a team member of the Inclusive and Collaborative Local Tech Innovation Hub a project by the Faculty of Computing and Informatics at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST).

### Indigenous Knowledge and Intellectual Property - by Magdalena Nghiiki

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) has been increasingly recognised by researchers, governments, and development agencies as a source of knowledge that has intrinsic social, cultural, spiritual, economic, scientific, and intellectual and educational value. Documenting IK has been identified as one of the tools to maintain, support benefit-sharing and protecting IK from further loss and misappropriation. IK can have the characteristics of different forms of IP and therefore can be exploited in similar ways as IP. The relationship between Intellectual property and the protection, promotion, preservation, and safeguarding of expressions of knowledge will be outlined. The presentation will explore a number of issues that could address different aspects of how IK can better be protected within the IP system, including the issues of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, Access to Benefit Sharing and how critical it is to leverage IK even in the fight against pandemics such as COVID-19.







## Profile of Key Note Speaker: Ms Seno Namwandi

Seno Namwandi is a dynamic young scientist interested in convergence between Science, Business and Law. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from Stellenbosch University in 2010. She holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Intellectual Property Management and Innovation (University of South Africa - UNISA) and a Master's degree in Intellectual Property. She works in the research department of the International University of Management (IUM), in Windhoek, Namibia. Namwandi was involved in the first ever Open Innovation project which exposed her to IP and scenarios of Technology Transfer. Ms Namwandi sits on the board of the Business Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA). She enjoys reading, learning, music and, in her free time, is an avid fitness and wellness enthusiast.

### Navigating IP in Research and Development in developing a COVID vaccine - by Seno Namwandi

Intellectual Property (IP) is regarded as especially controversial in the development of vaccines, particularly a pressing concern in the public health sector regarding accessibility of treatment. However, IP is also security in terms of a return on investment on the resources necessary to conduct research. As the scientific community grapples to find a solution for COVID-19, IP has been perceived as a stumbling block to some (e.g. developing countries), and to others a security to ensure return on investment (esp. developed countries). The fundamental principles of IP have the potential to create a barrier in the research and development of a vaccine if not managed correctly. Patents drive the pharmaceutical industry and the restrictive nature of patents could create challenges with research, research collaboration, vaccine development and dissemination. This presentation will discuss the role of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Trade Organization (WTO) in managing the IP process during the development and possible roll out of vaccines by enforcing DOHA and other instruments to protect public health. Notwithstanding, there are benefits to the IP regime in this process. The presentation will briefly explore the publication nature of patents that ensures information sharing is uniform and accessible to perpetuate research. Secondly, how IP secures a return on investment, as the research, development and dissemination of the vaccine will be a resource intensive process for many countries. The key will be to balance the safeguarding of public health with the commercial nature of pharmaceuticals. And more importantly, with a global pandemic, the key consideration should be whether a return on investment is necessary at all.

