

# Concept Document

21-23 February 2024

Eastern Cape ICC, East London

## IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

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| <b>EVENT</b>  | <b>NEMISA Digital Skills Summit and Colloquium 2024</b>  |
| <b>Host</b>   | <b>Walter Sisulu University, East London, Eastern Cape</b>   |
| <b>Venue</b>  | <b>East London International Convention Centre</b><br>2 Marine Park Complex, 22 Esplanade St, East London, 5201  |
| <b>Summit</b>   | <b>21-23 February 2024</b> (Wednesday to Friday)   |
| <b>Colloquium</b>   | This event represents the latest instalment in a series of successful and ongoing synergistic and transdisciplinary engagements between academia, researchers, industry, civil society, organised labour (unions), and government, focusing on the future of work, data science, and digital skills. |
| <b>Postgraduate symposium</b>                                 |  |
| <b>Official website</b>                                       | <a href="https://nemisa-digitalskills.co.za/">https://nemisa-digitalskills.co.za/</a>  |
| <b>Submission link</b>  | <a href="https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=nemisadigitalskills2">https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=nemisadigitalskills2</a>  |
| <b>Colloquium preprint proceedings ISBN (DHET accredited)</b> | ISBN: <b>978-0-6397-9685-7</b> (print)<br><b>978-0-6397-9686-4</b> (e-book)  |
| <b>Best papers from colloquium</b>                            | Best papers to be recommended to DHET journal special issue.   |

## 1. SUMMIT AND COLLOQUIUM CONCEPT NOTE

In the wake of technological advancement and global and local economic uncertainty, the impact of digital skills on employment is critical. While digital skills are increasingly in demand, the current job market is undergoing significant changes, and the demand for digitally skilled workers is growing. This situation raises several critical questions: How are digital skills affecting employment opportunities? What impact is economic uncertainty having on the availability of employment opportunities for individuals with digital skills? How can digital skills be leveraged to address the challenges of unemployment and mental health in the context of economic uncertainty?

The NEMISA 2024 Research and Practice events on “*Digital Skills, Economic Uncertainty, and Employment*” invites government, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and social enterprise stakeholders to deliberate (through round table discussions, practice and research papers) on the topics related to the intersection of digital skills, economic and political uncertainty, and employment. We are particularly interested in addressing one or more of the following topics:

1. The relationship between digital skills and the labour market: How are digital skills affecting the nature of work and employment opportunities?
2. The impact of economic uncertainty on employment opportunities for individuals with digital skills.
3. Digital skills and the gig economy: How are digital skills shaping the gig economy, and what implications does this have for employment?
4. The role of digital skills in addressing unemployment: How can digital skills be leveraged to address the challenges of unemployment in the context of economic uncertainty?
5. Policies and strategies for promoting the development and deployment of digital skills to support employment growth.

## 2. NEMISA BACKGROUND

NEMISA has a mandate to develop capacity in South Africa to ensure that South Africans have the necessary digital skills (including broadcasting) to participate in the 4IR.

A part of the mandate is to establish an innovative research network focusing on digital skills with links to public and / or private university networks locally and internationally. The aim of the network is to “provide the evidence-based digital based basis, through research and other available means, for decisions on how to innovatively address the opportunities and systemic challenges in achieving digital skills capacity in South Africa”. We seek solutions that are application oriented and make a tangible social and economic difference.

### 3. EVENT POSITIONING

The summit (usually industry-government focused) and the colloquium (academic focused) aim to establish an innovative and collaborative research network by providing a platform for government, academia, industry, education and civil society to share research, data and trends that will contribute to refining the NEMISA mandate to develop the necessary digital skills capacity of South Africa.

### 4. COLLOQUIUM CALL FOR PAPERS

We welcome submissions of original research papers, theoretical papers, case studies, and empirical studies. The papers should provide insights into the relationship between digital skills, economic uncertainty, and unemployment, and offer recommendations for policymakers, educators, and practitioners to address the challenges and opportunities in this field.

The following tracks representing NEMISA thematic areas are available:

- a. Machine Learning, Artificial intelligence, Blockchain, and Data science
- b. Digital development
- c. Internet of Things
- d. Digital and Online Education (Education 5.0)
- e. Digital Transformation in Government (Government 5.0)
- f. Open Government
- g. Society 5.0 (Smart Cities, Villages and Campuses)
- h. Creative Media and Broadcast

All research papers will be blind peer reviewed and will be published in Conference Proceedings that are DHET accredited with ISBN numbers 978-0-6397-9685-7 (print), and 978-0-6397-9686-4 (e-book).

### 5. COLLOQUIUM TO JOURNAL PAPER SUBMISSION CYCLE

The best research papers and case studies will be considered for publication in special issues of partnering journals.

### 6. POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM 2024

The postgraduate symposium is dedicated to Honours, Masters and Doctoral students focusing on the future of work, data science, digital skills, the 4IR and other related emerging disciplines to engage in intellectual and research discourse with supervisors, practitioners, and leading academics. There are two categories for presentations:

- a. Poster Presentations
- b. 15-minute Oral Presentations (include Questions and answers)

The symposium will integrate workshops and talks on the following areas:

- a. Research Proposal
- b. Importance of publishing



- c. Theory Development in IS Research
- d. Academic Writing.

Register and submit your poster on <https://easychair.org/cfp/digitalskills2024>

The registration cost is sponsored by NEMISA.

## 7. BEST PAPER AWARDS

The following awards will be presented:

- Best academic research paper
- Best practitioner paper
- Sponsored best paper by track (according to sponsorships)
- Best student paper (Postgraduate Symposium)

## 8. IMPORTANT DATES

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Summit, Colloquium, and Postgraduate Symposium Call for Papers: | 15 September 2023   |
| Abstract submission deadline                                    | 30 October 2023     |
| Full paper submission deadline                                  | 31 October 2023     |
| Notification of acceptance                                      | 30 November 2023    |
| Summit, Colloquium, and Postgraduate symposium:                 | 21-23 February 2024 |

## 9. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Papers should be no more than 8000 words in length, including abstract, tables, figures, and references.

- All submissions should follow EasyChair style.
- All papers should be submitted as a Word document.
- Papers should be submitted electronically on EasyChair using the link <https://easychair.org/cfp/digitalskills2024>

**We anticipate four different genres of papers:**

- Practitioner papers reflecting on industry experiences – should not exceed 6 pages
- Full academic papers reflecting completed research – should not exceed 14 pages including references (for publication in the proceedings)
- Short papers reporting on work in progress – should not exceed 6 pages including references.
- Case studies – should not exceed 6 pages including references and exhibits.
- Abstracts – should not exceed 3 pages including references.

**Currently, submit papers on EasyChair** using this link <https://easychair.org/cfp/digitalskills2024>. Full papers to be submitted should have completed analyses and documentation of results. Papers should be submitted as a '.pdf' or '.docx' file.

**The Colloquium committee has established a maximum of 2 papers per author** (including co-authored papers). Any submissions beyond this limit by a given author will be eliminated from the review process.

**Author(s)' name(s) should not appear in the body of the paper and the abstract.** References to institutions, sponsors, and unpublished/published works should be eliminated if these references will identify any author.

**English is the language of the colloquium** and of all submissions.

Any submission that does not conform to the above guidelines will be eliminated from the review process.

## **10. NEMISA 2024 ORGANISING COMMITTEES**

### **Summit Co-Chairs**

- Prof Ernest Mnkandla - University of South Africa
- Dr Emmanuel Mtsweni - University of South Africa
- Ms Sibukele Gumbo – Walter Sisulu University

### **Colloquium Co-Chairs**

- Dr Emmanuel Mtsweni - University of South Africa
- Dr Tendani Mawela – University of Pretoria
- Prof Hossana Twinomurinzi – University of Johannesburg

### **Postgraduate symposium Co-Chairs**

- Ms Nkosikhona Msweli – University of South Africa
- Ms Victoria Tau – National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa
- Ms Sibukele Gumbo – Walter Sisulu University

### **Programme Committee**

The programme committee comprises the following:

- Ms Nkosikhona Msweli - University of South Africa
- Ms Victoria Tau - NEMISA

- Prof Hossana Twinomurinzi - University of Johannesburg
- Prof Tendani Mawela - University of Pretoria
- Prof Ernest Mnkandla - University of South Africa
- Prof Peter Mkhize - University of South Africa
- Dr Emmanuel Mtsweni - University of South Africa

## 11. CONTACT US

Please feel free to contact the Organising Chairs with any queries on: [mswelnt@unisa.ac.za](mailto:mswelnt@unisa.ac.za) and / or [victoriat@nemisa.co.za](mailto:victoriat@nemisa.co.za)

NEMISA DigitalSkills2024 Organising Committee