

African Astronomical Society conference and General Assembly 2025 (AfAS-2025)

Thursday, 20 March 2025

Side Event: AfAS-2025 Data Science Hackathon (09:00 - 10:30)

Side Event: AfAS-2025 Data Science Hackathon (11:00 - 12:30)

Side Event: AfAS-2025 Data Science Hackathon (13:30 - 15:00)

Side Event: AfAS-2025 Data Science Hackathon (15:30 - 17:00)

Friday, 21 March 2025

Side Event: AfAS-2025 Data Science Hackathon (09:00 - 10:30)

Side Event: AfAS-2025 Data Science Hackathon (11:00 - 12:30)

Side Event: AfAS-2025 Data Science Hackathon (13:30 - 15:00)

Side Event: AfAS-2025 Data Science Hackathon (15:30 - 17:00)

Saturday, 22 March 2025

Side Event: BLUEshift Africa 2025 (08:50 - 17:00)

-Conveners: Linda Strubbe

time	[id] title	presenter
08:50	[243] Intro information from UNISA	
09:00	[244] Welcome, workshop overview, introductory discussions	
10:05	Tea break	
10:35	[245] How Learning Works, Part 1	
11:00	[246] How Learning Works, Part 2 & Active learning	
11:55	Lunch Break	
12:55	[247] Teaching inclusively. Quick stretch break	
14:05	[248] Teaching case studies	
15:05	Tea Break	
15:35	[249] Principles of Backwards Design	
16:05	[250] Challenges of active learning and inclusive teaching	
16:25	[251] Introduction: Design an active learning activity	
16:45	[252] Day 1 Reflection & Wrap-up	

Side Event: African Planetarium Association Biannual Workshop (09:00 - 17:00)

-Conveners: Sally Macfarlane

time	[id] title	presenter
09:00	[267] SESSION 1: Welcomes and Updates	MACFARLANE, Sally
	- [1] Welcome	MACFARLANE, Sally
	- [2] IPS updates	MURABANA, Susan
	- [3] Discover Your Place in the Universe: A Cosmic Journey to Self-Discovery	VERTUE, Dominic
10:30	Morning Tea/Coffee	
11:00	[268] SESSION 2: Planetariums for Community Growth and Development	
	- [1] Pioneering New Frontiers: Early Engagements and Future Visions for the Nelson Mandela University Science Centre	MOLEKO-BOYCE, Pulleng
	- [2] Astronomy and STEM Promotion in Nigeria through Mobile Planetarium Experience	EGBUIM, Timothy
	- [3] Experience and Outcomes of APA in Ethiopia and Its Impact for Development of Planetarium in Ethiopia	WOGAYEHU, Meklit
	- [4] GROUP DISCUSSION	
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	[270] Workshop 2	DESU, Sosina
15:00	Afternoon Tea/Coffee	
15:30	[271] Affordable projector concepts	Mr VAN DER MERWE, Nico

Sunday, 23 March 2025

Side Event: African Lunar Symposium (07:30 - 17:00)

-Conveners: Greg Schmidt; James Chibueze

time	[id] title	presenter
07:30	[279] Depart Emperor's Palace Hotel	
08:30	[280] Venue open for assembly	
09:00	[263] Welcome and Opening Remarks	
09:20	[264] Session 1	CHIBUEZE, James
	- [1] SSERVI Overview:	SCHMIDT, Greg
	- [2] Collaborating with SSERVI	GIBBS, Kristina
	- [3] "Africa2Moon"	SHARPE-MITCHELL, Carla
	- [4] African Lunar Science from Ancient to Future	LEEUW, Lerothodi
	- [5] The Astrophysical Lunar Observatory - a dedicated ESE Argonaut mission to the lunar far side to discover the Dark Ages and Cosmic Dawn	KLEIN WOLT, Marc
	- [6] Q&A Panel	
10:45	Tea Break	
11:15	[265] Session 2	TAKALANA, Charles
	- [1] "Hunting for Volatiles in Lunar PSR's"	GREEN, Jim
	- [2] Eco-friendly Commercial Resource Extraction from the Moon and Beyond - Possibility, Potential, Problems	THOMAS, Chesler
	- [3] Unraveling the Dynamics of the Lunar Sodium Tail and Sodium Spot: Insights into Lunar Exospheric Processes and Surface-Atmosphere Interactions	DUMLUPINAR, Tugcag
	- [4] Human Exploration of the Moon and Beyond: Enhancing Radiation Protection with Graphene-Based Multilayer Shielding	HOURIA, cherief
	- [5] International Network for Lunar flashes monitoring	BENKHALDOUN, Zouhair
	- [6] Meteors	Ms MUHAMMAD AUWAL, Fauziyya
	- [7] Q&A Panel	
13:00	Lunch Break	
14:30	Call to Resume	
14:35	[269] Session 3	SCHMIDT, Greg GIBBS, Kristina
	- [1] Outer Space Classroom in Meteorite Lab: Developing School-Based Lessons on Moon Exploration Using Lunar Meteorites and Historic Artifacts	SIT, Exodus Chun-Long
	- [2] "How People Understand Space Science: Challenges and Opportunities"	KILIBAHA, LIGHTNESS

	- [3] Flash Talks	WADE, Richard Peter ASEKO, Japheth AKOMOLAFE, Gbenga EL-YAMANI, Aza DORAH, Akatukunda MOHAMMED, Nebiyu TANTOUSH, Suhaila FAYED, Mohamed RACHID, Cheffou Mairoukoundoum DALDOUL, mayssa AHMED, Mehbuba TEDISO, MULUGETA MARKOS WERAMUNDI, Noela Elidah Nabwonya RUTTA, Boniphace NESVINGA, Praise MBURU, Samuel
15:20	Tea Break & Poster Discussions	
16:00	[272] Session 3 cont.	SCHMIDT, Greg GIBBS, Kristina
	- [1] The History of The European Lunar Symposium	ANAND, Mahesh
	- [2] Panel: Toward the Future	ANAND, Mahesh GIBBS, Kristina SCHMIDT, Greg TAKALANA, Charles
	- [3] Wrap-up discussion of future actions, plans for next year	ADAMS, Jim
	- [4] Adjourn	

Side Event: BLUEshift Africa 2025 (08:50 - 17:00)**-Conveners: Linda Strubbe**

time	[id] title	presenter
08:50	[255] Intro information from UNISA	
09:00	[256] BLUEshift: Welcome to Day 2	
09:15	[273] Facilitating Think-Pair-Share & Group Work	
10:00	[274] Design an active learning activity, Part 1	
10:30	Tea Break	
11:00	[275] Design an active learning activity, Part 2	
12:00	Lunch Break	
13:00	[276] Design an active learning activity, Part 3: Gallery walk & discussion. Quick stretch break	
14:10	[277] Reflecting on our teaching	
15:25	Tea Break	
15:55	[278] Further resources, Parking Lot questions, Closing	

Side Event: African Planetarium Association Biannual Workshop (09:00 - 17:00)

-Conveners: Sally Macfarlane

time	[id] title	presenter
09:00	[258] SESSION 3: Planetariums as Tools for Empowering Africa's STEM Future	
	- [1] Under the Dome: Inspiring Curiosity Through Planetariums	Mr ABTE, Biruk Abrham
	- [2] Revolutionizing STEM Education in Africa: Planetaria as Catalysts for Transformative Learning	KIMOTHO, Geoffrey
	- [3] Building Capacity Through Astronomy: Educational Outreach with the AMT Mobile Planetarium	KATJAITA, Hiiko
	- [4] Space and Satellites" at the Naval Hill Planetarium	HOFFMAN, Matthiam
	- [5] Discussion	
10:30	Morning Tea/Coffee	
11:00	[260] SESSION 4: Planetaria and the Power of Stories: Connecting Culture and Science	
	- [1] Story-telling in a Large-scale, Shared, Digital Environment	SNYMAN, Léon
	- [2] Exploring the Significance of African Indigenous Star Stories in Modern Astronomy	MOHAMMED, Nebiyu
	- [3] Innovative Outreach Strategies: Inspiring the Next Generation of Astronomers	YETAYEW, Redait Basaznew
	- [4] Harnessing Planetaria as Gateways to Science: Inspiring Africa's Next Generation of Innovators	DESU, Sosina
	- [5] Group Discussion	
12:30	Lunch Break	
13:30	[261] APA Business Session	
15:00	[262] Excursion: Wits Anglo American Digital Dome	