






AFRICAN WOMEN IN DATA SCIENCE CONFERENCE 2024: MEET OUR SPEAKERS

Venue: Teams

link: <https://shorturl.at/ybldl>

Speaker	Profile
Prof Inger Fabris-Rotelli 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Associate professor in the Department of Statistics at the University of Pretoria - She holds a PhD in Mathematical Sciences (2013), an MSc in Applied Mathematics, and double BSc (Hons) degrees in Mathematical Statistics and Applied Mathematics. - Her research interests include spatial statistics, GIS, remote sensing, spatial epidemiology, and criminology. - PI for two major research collaboration groups, SEPIMOD (Spatial Epidemiological Modelling) and StatSNetSA (a capacity development group for building doctoral supervision skills in academic statistics in South Africa). <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Y2 NRF rating - Current president of South African Statistical Association (SASA) - CEO of the ICCSSA Institute for Practicing Statisticians - UP Exceptional Young Researcher prize in 2023. - BRICS Young Scientist in AI (2020), - Executive committee of the South African Statistical Association (SASA) from 2012 to 2018 - 2018 fellow of the TUKS Young Researcher Leadership Program - Abe Bailey Fellow (2007), - South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) council member (2021-2025) - Numerous publications, fostered postgraduate growth, and supported the development of young academics

<p>Nollie Maoto</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nollie Maoto is a distinguished Chief Data and Analytics Officer (CDAO) within the Chief Compliance Office of one of South Africa's largest banks. - She has a significant influence in the data and analytics community, both in Africa and globally. - Nollie has been widely recognised for her leadership, particularly in mentoring women in data and analytics across the African continent. <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Among Top 10 Women in Technology in the Middle East and Africa, 2024 - Chief Data Officer of the Year in 2022, - Data Analytics Leader of the Year in 2022, - Inspirational Leader of the Year in 2023. - Listed among the Top 100 Most Influential African Leaders in Tech & Telecoms for 2023 - Global Data Power Women list in both 2022 and 2023. - Founder of a female-only mentorship program under her Impactful Leadership Non-Profit Company - 11th Accenture Gender Mainstreaming Awards (2nd Best) for the Professional Services Sector, 2023 - BAI Global Innovation Awards Circle Judge for 2022 and 2023 - Member of the Africa Tech / Africa Com Leadership Council, - Contributes to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's Global Digital Compact (emerging Technologies). - CDO Magazine Editorial Board Member and the CDO Ambassador for South Africa. - Nollie has spoken at over 50 conferences and summits worldwide in Open Data and Data Science
<p>Simisani Ndaba</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simisani Ndaba is a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Botswana. - Her research interests are in Data Science and Community Involvement. - She is the founder and co-organiser of R-Ladies Gaborone - She Occasional blogger and enjoys creating data visualisation.

<p>Miranda Chidemo</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Miranda boasts 9 years of experience in the STEM industry, with 5 of those, spent in the Data Science. - She has implemented several Business Solutions for organizations locally and regionally. - She has worked other data-oriented roles, and Lecturer. - She has mentored several data enthusiasts and worked on various projects. - She has excellent managerial skills and is knowledgeable in Power BI, Tableau, SQL, Microsoft Office Applications, Python, and Machine Learning. - She is also knowledgeable in harnessing Telemetry data, ETL Development, Business Intelligence, Automation, and Project Management. - Miranda also co-owns a Security and Insurance organisation, with three main business units, namely Vehicle Security, Insurance and Security Guards, and the organisation recently got awarded an Outstanding Award by the Zimbabwe CEO's Network as a Record-Breaking firm. - Miranda possesses excellent leadership qualities, communication and presentation skills, good reporting skills, and is a critical thinker and team player
<p>Nyaradzo Musenza</p> 	<p>Nyaradzo Museza is a Data Professional with experience in data analytics, artificial intelligence, and data management. She started her career as a Telecommunications Engineer responsible for designing and deploying Fibre and 4G Networks. In pursuit of her programming passion, she discovered the world of data science and found it exciting. Nyaradzo is enthusiastic about digital transformation and data-driven-decision making. She was part of a team that established a Data Analytics Department at one of the largest telecommunications companies in Zimbabwe. She enjoys building machine learning models during her spare time. Nyaradzo is also devoted to mentoring and networking. On several projects, she led and mentored groups of upcoming A.I. Engineers as the Zimbabwe Chapter Lead at Omdena A.I. Solutions (an organisation that builds Artificial Intelligence solutions to solve real-life problems). She has pioneered an initiative to mentor young ladies in data science called "She is Data Scientist Initiative". Her goal is to bridge the divide and knowledge gap of the data profession to less privileged ladies in her community. Nyaradzo holds a BEng Degree in Electronic Engineering, a NanoDegree in Data Analytics, an MSc in Big Data Analytics, a certification in Data Protection and Privacy, and several certificates in business Intelligence, programming and machine learning.</p>
<p>Pendo Manjele</p>	<p>Pendo is an experienced Data Scientist with a specialization in Information Technology and the Financial Services Sector. She excels in driving digital transformation and enhancing operational efficiencies. Pendo has a proven track record of leading large-scale projects, improving customer experiences, and delivering measurable business results. Her passion lies in leveraging technology to solve real-world problems and create business value, with professional experience spanning consulting, telecoms, audit (Big4), and banking. In</p>



addition to her professional service, Pendo is dedicated to community building and promoting tech inclusivity. She co-led the Meta Developer Circle for five years, growing it into a vibrant community of over 4,000 developers and organizing 80 meetups and 8 hackathons. She also co-founded the Ubuntu AI Community, with a vision to bring together experts, professionals, and individual enthusiasts in Machine learning and AI to strengthen AI in Zambia. Pendo is also a technical writer and regularly shares insights about data science and technology on Medium. She has spoken on local and international stages about data science and tech inclusivity.

Tatenda Matika



Tatenda Emma Matika is a data scientist who has an interest in sharing her work, experiences, and opportunities in the field with the hope of inspiring others interested in her line of work. She shares such information on her YouTube channel (@TatendaEmma) and on her LinkedIn page. She studied BSc Computer Science and MSc Mathematical Science. Tatenda also has an interest in preserving African games and recognizing the educational concepts that can be learnt from them. She has a children's book titled "Play Nhodo, and Count, Add and Subtract" which teaches basic math concepts, introduces the game of Nhodo, and brings to life the combination of an African game and mathematics.

Musa Mbedzi



Musa Mbedzi is a Senior Data Scientist with more than 10 years' experience in the Data Science and Analytics space having worked as a Senior Data Scientist, Data Analyst, Business Analyst and an Analyst, in the Telecoms, Mobile Money, Banking, Engineering, Waste Management, Motor Industry, Retail, Insurance and Consultancy spaces. Her expertise is in Data Manipulation, Data Analytics & Modelling, Data Visualisations, Segmentation, Forecasting. She holds an MSc in Data Science and Analytics (Brunel University, London), MBA (NUST) and a BSc in Maths & Statistics(UZ), an Executive Certificate in Project Monitoring and Evaluation(UZ), among other certifications. Musa has worked on several projects including stock markets for the New York Stock exchange, property analysis for investors in the London market, customer data for predicting churn and cross sell opportunities in the South African market. In 2019, she was awarded the Chevening Scholarship (a UK government's international scholarships programme, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and partner organisations) to pursue an MSc in Data Science and Analytics at Brunel University in London, where she was awarded a distinction. During her time at Brunel University, she was elected to be the MSc Students Class Rep for the 2019/20 class. Musa is the founding president/chairlady for the Brunel Southern African Students Association, a society she founded in 2019 at University, with guidance and assistance from the Brunel Students Union, upon realising there was no society at the University that represented students from Southern Africa. This fuelled her passion further in the space and saw her founding an analytics and research company that seeks to provide data driven solutions to solve business and academic challenges. Musa is a board member in one of the tertiary institutions in Zimbabwe and is the current Chevening Alumni Chairperson. During her spare time, she mentors young people, especially in STEM (with her speciality being in the Data Science and Analytics space). She enjoys playing golf, dancing, cooking as well as travelling.

Bikilisu Olatinju



- Bilikisu Olatunji holds a MSc in Information technology, University of Liverpool, UK.
- She is a data scientist and a certified Posit (formerly RStudio) instructor, teaching R for data science and analytics.
- She contributed to Open source through the rOpensci Champions program.
- Bilikisu founded Business Data Laboratory, through which she offers services in data science and analytics, shiny development, research and teaching services.
- As an R enthusiast, she is the founder of Abuja R User Group and R-Ladies Abuja, Nigeria

Dr Danielle Jade Roberts



- Danielle Jade Roberts holds a **PhD in Applied Statistics**.
- She has vast **experience in teaching, curriculum development, research, and student supervision in applied statistics and data science**.
- She takes a **data-driven approach to solving real-world problems using statistics, machine learning, and technology**, with a focus on public health and other societal challenges in resource-limited settings in Africa.
- Danielle's extensive knowledge spans various statistical and data science techniques, including but not limited to joint models, spatial models, and both supervised and unsupervised learning models.
- Her research aims to assist stakeholders and policymakers in optimizing the distribution of scarce resources through more focused strategies.
- She is one of the founding members of the newly formed network on statistics supervision in South Africa ([StatSNetSA](#)).
- She is a regular reviewer for international ISI journals and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the [South African Statistical Association \(SASA\)](#).



Dr Verrah Otiende

- DR Verrah Is an assistant Professor at United States International University, Africa in Kenya
- She has PhD in Statistics
- Has been in Academia for over a decade now with focus in Computational Statistics and data Science

Prof Gabriel Kabanda



- Professor Gabriel Kabanda is the **Head of Doctoral Programmes at the Graduate School of Business & Leadership**, College of Law and Management Studies, **University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)**, South Africa.
- Holds a Post-Doctor of Science, Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) in Computer Science from Atlantic International University (USA) an PHD Computer Science
- He has Supervised up to **20 PhD , 150 Msc, 131 publications over 35 years.**
- He has held various positions including.
 1. Gabriel is the Vice President of the Zimbabwe Academy of Sciences (ZAS)
 2. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation, and Enterprise Development) of the Zimbabwe Open University
 3. Adjunct Professor of Machine Learning at Woxsen University, Hyderabad, India
 4. Professor of Applied Business Informatics at the University of Zimbabwe Business School for 24 years
 5. Adjunct Professor of Cybersecurity at California State University, Chico (USA)
 6. Professor of Big Data Science at NUST, Zimbabwe
 7. Fellow of the African Scientific Institute (USA)
 8. Secretary General of the Africa-Asia Dialogue Network
 9. Member of the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC) of the African Union
 10. Board of Trustees of Crown University Intl. Chartered Inc. (USA)
 11. He is the Editor of the Journal of Signal and Information Processing (USA)
 12. Editorial Board member of the LC International Journal on STEM
 13. Editorial Board Member of the Africa Journal of Leadership & Governance
 14. Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Digital Security and Forensics
 15. Content Editor of The West African Journal of Open and Flexible Learning (WAJOFEL).

Honors

- Outstanding Contributions to Education, the Golden Academic Excellence and Professional Achievement award in 2013 in Malaysia
- Who's Who of Professionals in 1997
- *"Most Notable and Top Distinguished Professor of the 21st Century"* – UNESCO 2021.
- Outstanding Contributions to Education, the Golden Academic Excellence and Professional Achievement award in 2013

Louise De Koker



Louise De Koker holds a PhD in Applied Statistics from the University of the Western Cape. She completed her undergraduate studies in Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics at the University of Cape Town. She has more than 25 years industry experience from actuarial consulting in Pensions and Healthcare and most recently in Retail in marketing analytics. She is currently a Senior Lecturer at Nelson Mandela University Business School where she teaches Data Analysis and Decision making, as well as Data Science for Managers to MBA students. She is involved in teaching, curriculum development, research, and supervision of MBA students, using her knowledge of statistics in applying it in corporate environments. Her passion is to help MBA students to understand and use statistics to make data driven decisions in their workplaces. She developed a new module, Data Science for Managers, for MBA students to understand the role of managers as decision makers in business in Data Science.