



TRANSFORM**HER**

“Living Lab Through HER Story”

SWEEP TransformHER
13-15 July 2026, South Africa

TRANSFORM *HER* LIVING LAB *through HER Story*

CO-CREATING SOLUTIONS.
BUILDING SKILLS.
CONNECTING ECOSYSTEMS.

**EMPOWERING WOMEN TO LEAD,
INNOVATE & CREATE IMPACT.**



ENTREPRENEURIAL
GROWTH



KNOWLEDGE &
SKILLS



COLLABORATION &
PARTNERSHIPS



ECOSYSTEM
SUPPORT



WOMEN
LEADING CHANGE

From lived experiences to lasting impact.



In collaboration with

the Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP),
the British Council, the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE), and the Universities
South Africa (USAf)



higher education
& training
Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Key features of the Living Lab

The British Council-funded SWEEP TransformHER “Living Lab through HER Story” is an immersive three-day collaborative initiative that brings together SWEEP students and coordinators, academics, entrepreneurs, NGOs, and industry leaders from the UK and South Africa to explore and advance female entrepreneurship in South Africa.

Through interactive and creative engagement methods, participants will share experiences, co-create solutions, and benefit from expert-led training and upskilling opportunities. The Living Lab seeks to generate actionable insights, strengthen entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, foster collaboration across the UK and South Africa.

The SWEEP TransformHER Living Lab is expected to equip participants with *entrepreneurial competencies, practical knowledge, and valuable professional networks* (including NGOs) that support entrepreneurship and innovation.

By translating lived experiences into actionable solutions, the programme aims to contribute to a stronger ecosystem for female entrepreneurship, foster meaningful partnerships among key stakeholders, and empower women entrepreneurs to lead, innovate, and create sustainable impact within South Africa’s entrepreneurial landscape.



Agenda

Collaborative co-creation and storytelling activities through a series of workshops for students and coordinators. This is a must-attend event that enables participants to learn from high-profile trainers, entrepreneurs, educators, and industry professionals from the UK and SA.

Day 1

Monday 13 July 2026

Time	Duration	Activity	Speaker / Facilitator
09:00 - 10:00		Arrivals & Registration	
10:00 - 10:05	5 min	Safety Presentation (Main Venue)	
10:05 - 10:10	5 min	House rules / Introduction of the speaker	Ms Zana Boshoff, Project Manager: Entrepreneurship, EDHE, Universities South Africa
10:10 - 10:20	10 min	SWEEP Opening & Welcome	Dr Edwell Gumbo, Director: Entrepreneurship, EDHE, Universities South Africa
10:20 - 10:40	20 min	Opening Keynote: Universities South Africa (USAf)	Dr Phethiwe Matutu, CEO, Universities South Africa (USAf)
10:40 - 10:55	15 min	Partner message of support: The British Council	Ms George Barrett, Country Director, The British Council South Africa
10:55 - 11:05	10 min	Partner message of support: Department of Higher Education and Training	Ms Mandisa Cakwe: Director, University Capacity Development Programme, Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)
11:05 - 11:15	10 min	Motivational message on behalf of the CoP	Ms Karen Snyman, Student Entrepreneurship Specialist, Nelson Mandela University and the Chairperson for the national EDHE Community of Practice for Student Entrepreneurship Coordinators
11:15 - 11:45	30 min	Refreshment Break	
11:45 - 12:00	15 min	Ice Breaker - Speed Networking (Main Venue)	
12:00 - 12:30	30 min	Recognition of all SWEEP Chapters and Coordinators - pin ceremony	Announcement: Ms Zana Boshoff & Ms Nomusa Kahmbule. Handover by: Ms George Barret, Country Director, The British Council; Handshake: Dr Phetiwe Matutu, CEO, Universities South Africa (USAf)
12:30 - 13:15	45 min	SWEEP 2026 progress, successes & reporting deliverables	Ms Zana Boshoff, Project Manager: Entrepreneurship, EDHE, Universities South Africa
13:15 - 13:30	15 min	Ice Breaker - Theme Song	
13:30 - 14:30	60 min	Lunch	

Time	Duration	Activity	Speaker / Facilitator
15:00 - 15:15	15 min	TransformHER Her Living Lab Welcome & Essentials (Main Venue)	Prof Nadia Gulko (UK Lead) & Prof Sanlie Middelberg (SA Lead)
15:15 - 15:30	15 min	Opening Welcome - "Empowering Youth: Skills and Education for a Changing World" (Main Venue)	Ms George Barrett, British Council Country Director, South Africa
15:30 - 16:00	30 min	Keynote address 1 - "Leadership thinking in entrepreneurship" (Main Venue)	Prof Verona Leendertz, Deputy Dean: Research and Innovation, North-West University, South Africa
16:00 - 16:30	30 min	Skills Workshop 1 - "From Survival to Scale: Managing Cash Flow During Growth" (Main Venue)	Prof Liz Warren, Head of International, Faculty Executive Team at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
16:30 - 16:45	15 min	Tea/Coffee Break	
16:45 - 18:15	90 min	Master Event 1: "Why should anyone be led by YOU?"	Ms Sally Newnham, Professional Trainer, UK
18:15 - 19:15		Dinner (individual arrangements)	
19:15 - 20:30	85 min	Concurrent Living Lab Events	
	Fireside Chats with Sally Newnham (Acacia 1&2)	"MakeHER — Common Threads and New Directions" with Heather Connelly. (Acacia 3) MakeHER — Your Voice - Drop in to create your own unique wearable piece of art - a button badge to expressing your entrepreneurial journey, a memento to take away, keep or share.	Academic Forum for SWEEP Coordinators (Silverleaf) led by Prof Nadia Gulko and Prof Sanlie Middelberg



Time	Duration	Activity	Speaker / Facilitator
08:00 - 08:30	30 min	Mindfulness session (Main Venue)	Ms Sally Newnham, Professional Trainer, UK
08:30 - 10:00	90 min	Master Event 2: “The accidental creative and finding your passion” (Main Venue)	Ms Sally Newnham, Professional Trainer, UK
10:00 - 10:15		Tea/Coffee Break	
10:15 - 10:45	30 min	Keynote address 2 - “Impactful Enterprise Development in SA: a journey of learning what works” (Main Venue)	Ms Annie McWalter, CEO: SAICA Enterprise Development & The Hope Factory
10:45 - 12:45	120 min	Living Lab Entrepreneurial Competency Reflection Activity - 3 stations (Main Venue) Station 1 — Diagnostic Station 2 — Reflection Station 3 — Action	Lead Speaker: Prof Liz Warren, and facilitated by TransformHER team members
12:45 - 13:30		Lunch	
13:30 - 14:00	30 min	Skills Workshop 2 - “The Many Faces of Success: Two different stories of resilience, unwavering perseverance, and growth” (Main Venue)	Prof Nadia Gulko & Dr Kelebogile Kenalemang
14:00 - 16:15		Concurrent Living Lab Events	
14:00 - 14:45	45 min	Academic Forum for SWEEP coordinators (Silverleaf) led by Prof Nadia Gulko and Prof Sanlie Middelberg	
14:45 - 15:15	30 min	Address by Associate Partner - Ubambano (Main Venue)	Mr Theko Litsoane
15:15 - 15:45	30 min	Address by Associate Partner - MOSAIC (Main Venue)	Ms Eileen de Kock
15:45 - 16:15	30 min	Skills Workshop 3 - “Building Businesses That Matter: Women, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability” (Main Venue)	Dr Mamorena Matsoso
16:15 - 16:30		Tea/Coffee Break	
16:30 - 18:00	90 min	Master Event 3: “Own your space -so get out of your own way!” (Main Venue)	Ms Sally Newnham, Professional Trainer, UK

Time	Duration	Activity	Speaker / Facilitator
18:00 - 18:05	5 min	Inspirational Talk (Main Venue)	Ms Akona Gazi-Babana, Founder of Mayine-Impumelelo Academy
18:05 - 18:30	25 min	Prize Draw Event with Entrepreneurs from South Africa (Main Venue)	Ms Sally Newnham, Prof Nadia Gulko, Prof Sanlie Middelberg, Prof Erica Derbyshire, Ms Zuleka Jasper, Founder and Director of Zuleka Coaching & Consulting
19:00 - 21:30		Social Evening by SWEEP	

Day 3

Wednesday 15 July 2026

Time	Duration	Activity	Speaker / Facilitator
08:00 - 09:30	90 min	Master Event 4: "Do IT... Now (or maybe later)" (Main Venue)	Ms Sally Newnham, Professional Trainer, UK
09:30 - 10:00	30 min	Keynote address 3 - "Staying power: The personal traits behind women who build businesses that last" (Main Venue)	Prof Natanya Meyer, Chair: Global Entrepreneurship Monitor South Africa; SARCHi Entrepreneurship Education University of Johannesburg, South Africa
10:00 - 10:15		Tea/Coffee Break	
10:15 - 11:45		Concurrent Living Lab Events	
10:15 - 10:45	30 min	Skills Workshop 4 - "Own the room: Communicate with purpose and power" (Main Venue)	Prof Louise Bezuidenhout
10:45 - 11:15	30 min	Skills Workshop 5 - "The psychology of financial success: financial literacy and behavioural bias" (Main Venue)	Prof Erica Derbyshire
11:15 - 11:45	30 min	Skills Workshop 6 - "Value based budgeting and planning" (Main Venue)	Prof Nadia Gulko and Dr Kelebogile Kenalemang
11:45 - 12:00	15 min	Closing address by SWEEP and TransformHER (Main Venue)	Ms Zana Boshoff, Project Manager: Entrepreneurship, EDHE, Universities South Africa, Prof Nadia Gulko (UK Lead), & Prof Sanlie Middelberg (SA Lead)
12:00		Departure	



Meet the Master Events Facilitator

Sally Newnham

Sally is based in Lincolnshire (UK) but working, well literally all over the place!



Working with individuals and organisations, supporting those working across sectors including not-for-profit, business, charities, sport and government departments, she always has one clear aim... to help get the very best out of everyone. Sally is the very embodiment of 'portfolio career', proving that life is most definitely not linear! After reading law at university, Sally went on to serve in the Royal Air Force, transitioning to teaching and learning via the Troops-to-Teacher's programme.

Continuing to find fulfilment and challenge through a variety of roles and relationships, Sally brings the very best evidence-informed ideas, training, development, events and practice-led support to help those she works with to be their very best. No two days are ever the same – whether it's strategic planning, leadership development, facilitation or workplace culture and wellbeing, Sally likes nothing more than helping others flourish.

BUT seriously, enough about her... what Sally is most interested in (except nice shoes) is you! I can't wait to meet you at the Sweep 2026 TransformHER event.

Do not miss these must attend sessions with Sally:

Master Event 1: Why should anyone be led by YOU?

Master Event 2: The accidental creative and finding your passion

Master Event 3: Your own space – so get out of your own way

Master Event 4: Do IT ... Now (or maybe later)

From Ideas, through implementation to impact.

Four individual participant engaged workshops with a human-centred reflective thread running throughout aims to offer insights, information and inspiration to all in attendance enabling them to leave the event and implement their ideas into action. Delegates will be challenged to identify their purpose, values and passion as well as capture their strengths, learning that the most important leadership role they face is leading themselves. Exploring resilience, creativity, and personal productivity gives delegates practical tools to embed into their lives, both personally and professionally as well as tackling limiting beliefs and identifying their next steps for continued growth and development.



SWEEP/USAf & EDHE Speakers



Dr Edwell Gumbo

Director of Entrepreneurship (EDHE) at Universities South Africa (USAf)

Dr Edwell is currently serving as the Director of EDHE at Universities South Africa (USAf), which is a representative organisation of all the 26 public universities. Dr Gumbo plays a pivotal role in shaping entrepreneurship development and support structures within South Africa's higher education sector. Dr Gumbo holds a PhD in Entrepreneurship from the University of Pretoria, an MBA from Nelson Mandela University and an MPhil in Entrepreneurship from the University of Pretoria. His career began in Metallurgical Engineering and later transitioned into education.

His entrepreneurial journey includes owning and managing Apis, a consulting company specialising in project management and business development. In the public sector, Dr Gumbo served as Deputy Director for Skills Development and Acting Director for SME Development for the City of Johannesburg. In these roles, he coordinated skills and SME development across city departments and municipal entities, fostering entrepreneurship and empowering SMEs to thrive in a competitive business environment. At Awethu Project, Dr Gumbo served as a startup mentor and Incubation Manager responsible for incubating more than 1000 entrepreneurs.

At Wits University's Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct, Dr. Gumbo supported startups and facilitated the internationalisation of South African startups through initiatives like the Irish Tech Challenge South Africa. Before joining USAf, he served as the Head of Enterprise Development at Wits University's Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct and as Director of the Wits Entrepreneurship Clinic, leveraging university resources to support entrepreneurs within and beyond the university ecosystem. Dr Gumbo's research interests include business incubators, support structures for entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial ecosystems and entrepreneurship in higher education.

Dr Phethiwe Matutu

Chief Executive Officer of Universities South Africa (USAf)

Dr Phethiwe has held the CEO position at USAf since October 2022. Prior to joining USAf, she served as Group Executive: Strategy, Planning and Partnerships at the National Research Foundation (NRF), where she led the development of the NRF Vision 2030 strategy and oversaw key strategic partnerships and national research planning initiatives.

Previously, at the former Department of Science and Technology, she served as Chief Director: Human Capital and Science Promotion, where she played a significant role in securing funding for postgraduate studies and research grants, while supporting the growth of flagship programmes such as the South African Research Chairs Initiative and Centres of Excellence.

A mathematician by training, Dr Phethiwe obtained her PhD in Mathematics from the University of Cape Town and began her career in academia, lecturing at institutions including the University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University, and Rhodes University. Her teaching focused on improving access to Mathematics education, particularly for previously marginalised groups. Dr Phethiwe has served on numerous national and international boards, councils, and ministerial task teams, including the Human Resource Development Council of South Africa, the Council of Walter Sisulu University, the SA-USA Fulbright Commission, and Higher Health. Throughout her career, she has remained committed to advancing transformation, research impact, and institutional development within the higher education sector.





Mandisa Cakwe

Director of University Capacity Development at the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)

Mandisa has extensive experience in higher education development, institutional capacity building, and student success initiatives. Her work focuses on advancing transformation, strengthening university systems, and promoting innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and student support across South Africa's higher education sector. Mandisa is passionate about creating inclusive, student-centred environments that contribute to equitable access, participation, and success in higher education.

Her responsibilities in her director role at the DHET include providing support to the public universities in the following areas: transformation of the higher education system; capacity development of university staff; student support to enhance their success; and programme/curriculum development.

Karen Snyman

Specialist: Student Entrepreneurship at Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

Karen has been instrumental in establishing the SEDFA Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator, launched in 2025. She serves as the Programme Manager for SEED (Student Employability and Entrepreneurship Development Programme), a University Capacity Development Programme-funded initiative focussing on enhancing graduate employability and entrepreneurial capacity.

She is the National Deputy Chairperson and current Chairperson of the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) Community of Practice for Student Entrepreneurship Co-ordinators.

Karen pioneered the first EDHE Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP) student chapter in 2021, which was launched at the EDHE Lekgotla in 2022. She also received the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award at Nelson Mandela University in 2019 and 2021 in addition to a National award from ENACTUS as Administrator of the Year in 2014.

Karen furthermore played a pioneering role in launching the first TVET Intercollege Entrepreneurship Competition in the Eastern Cape, an initiative that has since evolved into a national competition. Winners of EDHE Champion Awards 2025 (Mandela University Africa Hub). She also serves on various forums including: the Project Steering Committee for T3 Living Lab incubator, Board Member for BIWA (Business Incubation Web Association) and serves on the Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council (ECSECC) Technical Advisory Committee for advancing entrepreneurship in Eastern Cape TVET Colleges.

Karen holds Honours degrees in Education and Corporate Communication. Her passion lies in advancing student entrepreneurship - particularly for women - through capacity building, strategic partnerships, ecosystem development, and creating access to opportunities that empower young entrepreneurs to thrive. Inspired by the words of Nelson Mandela, "It always seems impossible until it is done," she believes that success is built through hard work, passion, resilience, and perseverance.



Nomusa Khambule

Entrepreneur & Founder of iLanga

Nomusa is a passionate entrepreneur, and advocate for youth-led businesses. She is the founder of iLanga Coils, a clean beauty brand that creates high-quality, natural haircare products using African ingredients to celebrate and nourish Afro-textured hair.

Her journey began as a Biomedical Sciences graduate, where her background in science fuelled her curiosity to research plant-based formulations and create sustainable solutions. She went on to complete her Postgraduate Diploma in Innovation and Entrepreneurship and is currently pursuing her Master's in Entrepreneurship and New Venture Creation at Wits Business School. Nomusa has been recognised in exhibitions and media interviews with partners like Absa and AEDC.

She also contributes to academia by mentoring students, serving on entrepreneurship panels, and judging pitch competitions, using her journey as a living case study of resilience and innovation. Deeply committed to empowering young Africans, Nomusa continues to share her story to inspire others to embrace entrepreneurship as a tool for solving problems, creating jobs, and building Africa's future.



Keynote Speakers



Professor Verona Leendertz

Full Professor at the North-West University, South Africa
Deputy Dean for Research and Innovation in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at North-West University, South Africa.

Even though Prof Verona is in a leadership position, she continues her active involvement in female leadership development. She also conducts research particularly in the female identity development and entrepreneurship towards sustainable economic development in local communities. As a female leader in higher education, Professor Leendertz mentors aspiring women academics leaders in South Africa, United Kingdom and South-East Asia. She has been active in various international funded projects related to female leadership development.

Annie McWalter

CEO of both SAICA Enterprise Development (SAICA ED) and The Hope Factory – entities part of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)

Known as The Hope Factory Group, Annie has been with The Hope Factory for 14 years and launched SAICA Enterprise Development Pty(Ltd) eight years ago. SAICA ED and The Hope Factory have served in several sectors, in the specialist area of Enterprise and Supplier Development, Skills Development, and Socio-Economic Development. To date, they have impacted 3 969 Small businesses and capacitated 2 932 individuals in 459 programmes nationwide; with the aim of uplifting individuals and communities, strengthening businesses and stimulating economic activities primarily through entrepreneurship and financial excellence skills. Annie graduated (cum laude) with a Master's in Industrial Psychology from the University of Johannesburg in 2008, and loves to encourage and inspire others, particularly young women, in their specific leadership and professional journeys.



Professor Natanya Meyer

Full Professor at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Interim DHET-NRF SARCHI Chair in Entrepreneurship Education

Prior to joining academia, Prof Natanya owned and managed three businesses, reflecting a lasting passion for entrepreneurship. She has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, holds a South African National Research Foundation (NRF) rating, and has over 3,600 citations.

Her research centres on entrepreneurship and economic development, with growing emphasis on digitalisation strategy, the digital economy, and technology adoption in entrepreneurial and SME contexts, including work on digitalisation strategies in high-growth firms and the dark side of digitalisation in the future of work. She is a member of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) South African and global teams, and a guest editor, editorial board member, and reviewer for several journals, with active collaborations across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.



Invited Speakers

George Barrett

Country Director of British Council, South Africa



George leads the UK's cultural engagement team of the British Council South Africa to strengthen connections, trust, and understanding between the people of the UK and South Africa. Since December 2022, she has overseen programmes in the arts, creative economies, education, and English language, with a vision of building a more inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous future for the next generation.

George brings over 14 years of professional and academic experience in South Africa. Prior to joining the British Council, she headed the UK's trade development portfolio for the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique at the British High Commission. She also spent eight years as a lecturer in International and Political Studies at Rhodes University, teaching African political philosophy, international relations, security, and environmental politics and ethics. This academic foundation has given her a deep understanding of the complex interplay between politics, society, and the environment in the African context.

Her career in international development began at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the Africa Educational Trust, where she worked on communications, knowledge management, and literacy programmes. She later joined the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), collaborating with civil society and political parties to strengthen democratic practices across Africa.

A strong networker and partnership builder, George is passionate about youth and female empowerment. She believes in the transformative power of education, cultural exchange, and skills development to drive inclusive and sustainable change, and continues to champion these values in her leadership role.

Akona Gazi-Babana CA(SA)

Co-founder & Director of Mayine-Impumelelo Academy

Senior Lecturer at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Akona is a Chartered Accountant that specializes in financial reporting. Akona has a passion for education, specifically accounting education, her passion for empowering and developing people – which she often refers to as Ubuntu or lifting as she rises is what fuels her daily.

Academic articles at UCT gave Akona exposure to the world of academia and the impact she could have on students from all walks of life, specifically for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This is when she believes academia chose her. She later joined the WSU re-accreditation program in Mthatha as a senior lecturer. Being part of this team afforded her the opportunity to give back to her very own community and to be a beam of hope to many. She was involved in the UCT/FASSET initiative where she translated financial reporting into isiXhosa – her home language. She is currently a senior lecturer at the University of Johannesburg and a program director for Bridging Certificate in the Theory in Accounting (BCTA) at the university. She holds a master's degree in Development Finance from the University of Stellenbosch.



She is a presenter on the Mayine-Impumelelo Academy which is a skills development support program candidates eligible to write the IAC and APC SAICA board exams. In the past few years, she has been selected as an umpire and a team leader for SAICA IAC and SAICA APC assessments respectively.

Akona is also a member of the Johannesburg Securities Exchange (JSE) proactive monitoring team which is tasked with assisting in upholding financial reporting standards of JSE listed companies. She also sits on a few boards as a non-executive director and a member of the audit and risk committee.

In 2021, ABSA (Advancement of Black Accountants of Southern Africa) selected Akona as the Academic Woman of the Year and she also won the SAICA Influence category award for the prestigious SAICA Top 35 under 35 competition.

Akona strives to live a purposeful life and is committed to being the change she would like to see in South Africa and in the accounting profession. This is evident through her commitment to empowerment, development of our people, mentorship, dedication, and commitment to the accounting profession.

Invited Speakers



Zuleka Jasper CA(SA)
Director and shareholder of Zuleka Coaching and Consulting (Pty) Ltd
Non-executive director
Leadership & Certified Master Life Transformation Coach
Master Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) Practitioner
Mindfulness Coach
Hypnotherapist (nm)

Zuleka stands out as a high-performing, self-motivated powerhouse in the professional landscape, seamlessly blending strategic insight with operational excellence. With a master's degree in accounting and a member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), she exemplifies technical mastery and industry leadership. Her extensive governance experience underscores her exceptional capacity for oversight; she currently serves as a non-executive director at Hyprop Investments Limited, where she chairs the Audit and Risk Committee and contributes significantly to the Social, Ethics, and Sustainability Committee. Her influence extends to the Remuneration Committee of Platinum Health Medical Scheme and the Academic Advisory Board for the School of Accountancy at the University of the Free State, reflecting her unwavering commitment to industry advancement and strategic development.

A solution-driven thinker with a keen ability to see the bigger picture, Zuleka excels at translating strategic vision into actionable results. Known for her logical mind, resilience, and disciplined approach, she communicates effectively and builds rapport effortlessly - enabling her to inspire others and drive peak performance. Ethical and strategic, Zuleka is a master interpreter of complex ideas, consistently delivering impactful insights that foster growth and innovation.

At the end of January 2018, Zuleka transitioned from a successful career in the auditing profession to pursue her passion for coaching, mentoring, and empowering individuals and organisations to achieve meaningful transformation. In 2019, she qualified as an International Certified Master Coach and she further expanded her expertise by qualifying as an International Certified Hypnotherapist in 2021. Zuleka's professional credentials also include certification as a Master Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) Practitioner and a Mindfulness Coach, equipping her with a diverse range of evidence-based coaching methodologies to support personal, professional, and leadership development. She is currently furthering her expertise by completing her studies to become a Mindful Eating Coach.

Zuleka is deeply passionate about developing authentic leaders and promoting emotional well-being, with a particular focus on empowering individuals from previously disadvantaged communities. She believes that while education and opportunity are essential, they alone are not sufficient to unlock a person's full potential. Lasting success is achieved through a holistic approach that nurtures emotional well-being, personal growth, resilience, self-awareness, and confidence.

Throughout her career, Zuleka has been recognised with numerous awards and accolades for her exceptional performance, leadership, and commitment to excellence. These achievements reflect her dedication to making a meaningful and lasting impact in the lives of the individuals and organisations she serves.



Meet the Organising Committee

Co-Chair, TransformHER UK Lead and Workshop Facilitator

Professor Nadia Gulko, PFHEA

Interim Deputy Dean of LIBS
Full Professor of Accounting Education and Sustainability
UK Project Lead for SWEEP 2026 TransformHER
Lincoln International Business School, University of Lincoln, UK
Extraordinary Professor at the North-West University, South Africa
Visiting Professor at Botswana School of Business Science, Botswana



Nadia has 20+ years' experience in industry and academia. She is a transformative leader with evidence of authentic innovative teaching and international collaborations. Nadia received grants from British Council, AICPA&CIMA, QAA, PRME UK&I and serves as PI on four multidisciplinary international projects. She is a member of the Lincoln UNESCO Chair Group. In 2024-25 she was on the UK QAA Advisory Group, driving the development of national guidance on entrepreneurship in curricula.

Her editorial portfolio includes Associate Editor roles in Accounting Forum (3*ABS), Journal of Accounting Education (2*ABS), South African Journal of Accounting Research (1*ABS), the IAAER Editorial Consultant to Accounting Education (2*ABS), and Editorial Board member of Business Strategy and the Environment (3*ABS). In 2026 she was invited to be the Executive Guest Editor of Special Issue on "AI and Digital Transformation and Accounting Education" in Accounting Education journal Taylor & Francis in collaboration with the International Association for Accounting Education and Research (IAAER). She has published in leading journals such as Studies in Higher Education, Business Strategy and the Environment, Journal of Business Research, Journal of Accounting Education, and Accounting Forum.

Co-Chair, TransformHER SA Lead and Workshop Facilitator

Professor Sanlie Middelberg, PhD, FCMA, CGMA

Full Professor in the School of Accounting Sciences at North-West University, South Africa
Visiting Professor of Sustainability, Risk Management, and Finance at the Lincoln International Business School, UK
South Africa Project Lead for SWEEP 2026 TransformHER

Prof Sanlie is an NRF-rated researcher and serves on CIMA's global Research & Development Panel and chairs the Southern African Regional Research Centre. Her research focuses on qualitative and interdisciplinary approaches to management accounting, sustainability, and risk, with a particular interest in agricultural finance, the resilience of agri-food value chains, and the financial inclusion and bankability of primary producers amid uncertainty. She leads and contributes to international grant-funded projects, including those from the British Council, QAA, and CIMA.



Lead Organiser and Workshop Facilitator

Professor Lorraine Erica Derbyshire CA(SA)

Associate Professor at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa
Department of Accountancy, Auditing Research Programme Leader, UJ
College of Business and Economics Community Engagement Programme Leader, UJ



Prof Erica, PhD, is a registered Chartered Accountant. Prior to joining the University of Johannesburg (UJ), she held leadership roles at North-West University as Financial Accountancy Programme Leader, Subject Head for auditing, governance, and ethics, and at the University of Cape Town as Ethics Lead. Her areas of expertise include auditing, corporate governance, ethics, and financial literacy, with a particular focus on small and micro-enterprise development. Prof Erica is the author of a Small and Micro-enterprise Owner Financial Literacy Survival Kit textbook and the co-author of a LexisNexis Ethics Accounting Professionals textbook.

Prof Erica is an active contributor to the development of the accounting profession through her involvement with SAICA and the ACCA, where she shares her expertise in professional accounting education and development. Her research is strongly focused on social and economic impact. In recognition of this work, she has received a Research Innovation Impact Award and has been nominated for the ASSAf Science-for-Society Gold Medal. She has also contributed to an international research project funded through a QAA grant and serves on a national ethics research collaboration group comprising scholars from 11 South African public universities.

Co-organiser and Workshop Facilitator

Dr Mamorena Lucia Matsoso

Senior Lecturer at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa
DHET- NRF SARCHI Entrepreneurship Education, Department of Business Management, College of Business and Economics at UJ

Dr. Mamorena holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cape Town. With over 15 years of academic experience, she has taught at leading institutions including the University of Cape Town–Graduate School of Business, and University of Johannesburg. She has also contributed to entrepreneurship skills development programmes that empower small businesses in South Africa.

Her research focuses on supply chain management of SMEs, sustainability and entrepreneurship. She is also a supervisor and examiner of postgraduate students and a reviewer of several journals and conferences. She coordinated the International Conference on Business and Management Dynamics (ICBMD) (2015–2018) and currently serves as the executive conference chair of the International Conference on Business Innovation and Incubation (ICBII) from 2025. She also served as the co-guest editor at Acta Commercii for the special issue emanating from the 2nd ICB11. She is the Associate Editor of African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development (AJSTID).



Co-organiser and Workshop Facilitator

Professor Louise Bezuidenhout

Co-organiser and Workshop Facilitator



Associate Professor in Communication at North-West University, South Africa. Prof Louise's work integrates academic excellence, community engagement, and social impact, drawing on experience in both industry and academia. She has led numerous service-learning and community-engaged projects that support social justice, empowerment, and sustainable development.

Her contributions have been recognised through several institutional awards. Her research focuses on engagement, sustainability, empowerment, inclusion, and the co-creation of knowledge with communities. She is actively involved in multidisciplinary international collaborations through two British Council-funded projects.

Co-organiser

Thandekile Koza

Lecturer in Auditing and Business Ethics at the University of Limpopo, South Africa

Thandekile holds a Master of Accounting Science from the University of South Africa and a Master of Philosophy in Responsible Leadership from the University of Pretoria. Her professional background spans internal auditing, governance, risk management, and financial control, with experience in both the private and public sectors.

Her research interests include business ethics, auditing, internal controls, responsible leadership, sustainability, and accounting education. She has published in accredited journals, co-authored the textbook *Ethics for Accounting Professionals*, and contributed to the book *Widowhood Struggles in Southern Africa*. Thandekile is a member of the Ethics Research Collaboration Group lead by the University of Cape Town and has received several accolades, including the Southern African Accounting Association Joint Best Paper Award, the UiPath Visionary Educator Award for Africa, and the University of Limpopo Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Award for Best Upcoming Teacher.



Co-organisier

Dr Katharina De Vita

Director of Education for the Faculty of Business & Law at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK



In her role as director, Dr Katharina is strategically accountable for implementing the University's education strategy at the faculty level and leading initiatives to enhance student satisfaction and outcomes in teaching, learning, assessment, and graduate employability. She is also a Reader in Innovation with a research interest in living labs. Katharina is the founder and co-director of the Innovation and Teaching Excellence Learning Lab (I-TELL) within the Faculty of Business and Law, an initiative focused on advancing educational excellence through innovation, experimentation, and evidence-informed practice. She is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA) and a Certified Management & Business Educator (CMBE).

Active in academic leadership and governance, Katharina serves as a member of the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) Committee for Education and Learning and sits on the Board of the International Society for Professional Innovation Management (ISPIM) Special Interest Group for Teaching and Coaching.

Throughout her career, she has secured funding from national and international sources for teaching innovation, discipline-based research, and consultancy. Her current projects include leading the £300,000 British Academy-funded Penang Living Lab for Advancing the Creative Economy (PLLACE) project as Principal Investigator. Prior to joining Manchester Metropolitan University, Katharina worked at the University of Greenwich and at the University of Cambridge.



Meet the Facilitators

Creative Sessions Facilitator



TransformHER - Creative Lead and Workshop Facilitator **Dr Heather Connelly**

Artist-Researcher, Senior Lecturer,
Deputy Director of Teaching & Learning, International Lead.
Lincoln School of Design and Architecture
University of Lincoln, UK

As an artist-researcher, I create experimental artworks that explore translation, intercultural communication, and co-creation across disciplines through text, sound, and performance. I lead the creative strand of TransformHER, using arts-based methods to empower participants to share lived experiences and collaborate in knowledge production. Working with design students at the University of Lincoln and North-West University, South Africa, to create visual narratives that document the participants' entrepreneurial journey. This fosters intercultural understanding while developing students' global mindset, confidence, and transferable skills. My pedagogy advances internationalisation at home, embedding UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals and enabling meaningful cross-cultural collaboration.

For further information about my research can be found at:
<https://www.heatherconnelly.co.uk/translationzones>

MakeHER — Common Threads and New Directions

MakeHER — Your Voice

Drop in to create your own unique wearable piece of art - a button badge to express your entrepreneurial journey, a memento to take away, keep, or share.

Workshop with Dr Heather Connelly

Join a creative, hands-on session using text and textiles to create a collaborative banner that reflects your entrepreneurial journey—no prior experience needed. A relaxed space to reflect on the lectures, connect with others, and grow in confidence whilst creating.



Meet the Facilitators

Skills Development Facilitators

TransformHER – Workshop Facilitator

Professor Liz Warren

Full Professor

Faculty Head of International at Manchester Metropolitan University's
Faculty of Business and Law



Since 2022, Prof Liz has been part of the Faculty Executive Team at Manchester Metropolitan University's Faculty of Business and Law, serving as Faculty Head of International. In this role, she led the internationalisation agenda, fostering a globally engaged academic culture that enhances international opportunities and experiences for both staff and students. As a triple-accredited business school and an international law school, the institution cultivates strategic partnerships with high-quality higher education institutions and industries, ensuring their international community contributes meaningfully to education and research excellence. Between 2023 and 2025, Prof Liz served as a member of the University's Academic Board.

Alongside her international leadership remit, she collaborates closely with colleagues in the Finance and Economics department, contributing to research in these areas as well as in the broader field of business education. Prof Liz also teaches International Corporate Finance on the MBA programme. In recognition of her sustained contribution to higher education, she holds a Principal Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

In her citizenship role, she actively mentors early and mid-career academics, supporting their professional development and enabling them to maximise their impact in alignment with our Transforming Lives, Businesses and Communities strategy. Prof Liz has held several senior academic leadership roles, in previous institutions, including Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Director of Learning and Teaching, and Head of the Department of Human Resources and Organisational Behaviour.

Externally, she contributes to the sector through membership of the UK Advisory Board of the Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABs), the Research Board of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee of UKCISA.

Her research and interests are based on Management Accounting as a subject and pedagogy. She has published in regulation, capital investment, in the sectors of energy, the banking industry and Craft Brewing sector. In the area of Business Education, she focuses on the use of blended learning, improving self-efficacy and reducing attainment gaps.

TransformHER – Workshop Facilitators

- Dr Kelebogile Kenalemang
- Professor Nadia Gulko
- Professor Sanlie Middelberg
- Professor Lorraine Erica Derbyshire
- Dr Mamorena Lucia Matsoso
- Professor Louise Bezuidenhout

(See bios in the organising committee section)



Meet the Facilitators

Skills Development Facilitators



TransformHER - Workshop Facilitator

Dr Kelebogile Kenalemang

Economist

Senior Lecturer at the Botswana School of Business Science, Botswana

Dr Kelebogile holds a PhD in Business Analytics and Data Science and has over a decade of experience in higher education. Her research interests include economic policy, digital transformation, financial inclusion, sustainability, entrepreneurship education, youth mentorship, and data solutions for data-driven decision-making.

Dr Kelebogile is passionate about advancing sustainable development through research, education, and industry collaborations, with a particular commitment to empowering and mentoring young people to become future leaders and innovators.



Student Ambassadors

University of Johannesburg Ambassador Nika Mendes



Nika is a second-year student at the University of Johannesburg, studying a BCom in Marketing Management. She is currently a Golden Key Honours Society member and was identified as one of the top 15 students in the marketing department. The Department of Business and Management has allowed her to exercise her business brain, expanding her knowledge of the best way to run a business and to understand the finer details, which she will take with her into the corporate world.

Nika is always ready to learn new things and like expanding my knowledge base. She hopes to become a tutor at UJ to give back to the community and help others through their learning. When she is not studying, you are likely to catch her with a book in her hand and trying a new coffee shop.

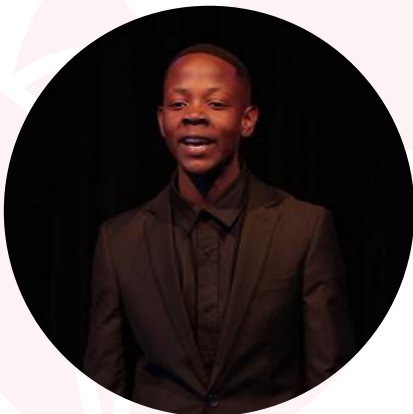
University of Johannesburg Ambassador Alexa Rutte

Alexa is a proud student of the University of Johannesburg (UJ), in the College of Business and Economics. She is completing her third year in BCom Industrial Psychology with Business Management as one of her modules. She is currently, a tutor at the UJ, a Golden Key Honors Society member and a UJenius bursary holder.

She is passionate about learning and empowering other students through sharing what she has learned in her studies. Business management has offered her some perspectives on the inner workings of a business and how it communicates with society. It has enriched her business acumen. In this way, she can apply these learnings in other subjects and her career going forward. She plans to further her studies while aligning her purpose with her work too. When she is not taking part in academics, she enjoys running, HYROX and spending time with her loved ones.



University of Johannesburg Ambassador Simpfiwe Leon Ncube



Simpfiwe was born and raised in the Alexandra township. My path shifted when I earned a bursary in Grade 7 to attend Sacred Heart College, one of South Africa's top private schools. I became a band leader in Grade 8, received my Honours Blazer in Grade 10, and matriculated with two distinctions - every one of my modules above 70%.

I'm proud to be part of the Ignition Youth Empowerment Programme, which equips high achieving students from disadvantaged backgrounds for the world of work. Today, I'm a second-year Human Resource Management student in the College of Business Management at the University of Johannesburg. I'm an aspiring HR professional with a clear focus: I want to specialise in labour relations and conciliation - helping to build fair, respectful workplaces through dialogue and resolution. Where I come from drives me, not defines me, and I carry my community with me in every step forward.



Design Student Ambassadors

University of Johannesburg Design Student Assistant Lemohang Serape



Lemohang Serape is a Graphic design student currently pursuing her honours degree at the University of Johannesburg. She covers illustration, visual brand identity, and publication design.

Graphic design was never really part of her plan, but here she stands, knee-deep in an Honours degree and quietly eyeing a Master's, because apparently one detour wasn't enough. Along the way, design has taught her to communicate with intention and to accept that the ugliest first draft is usually just a good idea in a disguise.

She is passionate about illustration and creating work that is fun and visually appealing to the viewer while maintaining her unique style. While she hopes that one day her work will change the world, for now, having fun designs is all she is happy with.

When she is not contemplating a logo design or scrolling the internet looking for the perfect colour palette (there will never be a perfect one), she draws, reads as well as runs a recently founded digital monthly subscription brand called "LemonDrop" that pairs her love for sneakers and make-up.

She lives at the crossroads of good design and questionable sneaker spending, and wouldn't have it any other way.

University of Johannesburg Design Student Assistant Katia Da Cunha

Katia is a proud student of the University of Johannesburg (UJ), currently completing her Honours in Communication Design after graduating with distinction from her undergraduate degree in the same field. She is a UJenius bursary holder and holds a craft certificate from the Pendorings.

Katia's passion lies in visual storytelling, from branding and editorial design to illustration, which remains one of her favourite ways to capture and communicate ideas. She loves bringing a personal, hand-crafted quality to her work, translating stories and messages into something visual and felt. When she's not designing, she enjoys hanging out with friends and playing padel.

Instagram: [@inkypinki_creations](https://www.instagram.com/inkypinki_creations)



Associate Partners and Supporters

Carien Möller Executive at the Mosaic Group



Carien is an executive leader, community development practitioner and advocate for people-centred transformation. As a member of the Executive Committee of the Mosaic Group, she works across social development, business and technology initiatives, helping to build organisations that create both economic and social value.

With more than 15 years of experience in human resources, communications, organisational development and community engagement, Carien has dedicated her career to strengthening organisations, empowering people and creating sustainable impact. Her work spans strategic leadership, stakeholder engagement, policy development, fundraising, volunteer management and organisational culture.

Through her work with vulnerable children and families, as well as with donors, volunteers, business partners and community stakeholders, she has witnessed the power of relationships, resilience and lived experience in driving meaningful change. She is passionate about creating opportunities for individuals and communities to recognise their strengths, develop their potential and actively shape their own futures.

Her work is guided by a commitment to dignity, collaboration and the belief that lasting change is achieved when communities are empowered to build on the assets and strengths that already exist within them. She holds a BCom in Communication Management and a BCom Honours degree in Labour Relations from North-West University and serves on the Executive Committee of the Mosaic Group.

<https://www.mosaic.org>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/carien-m%C3%B6ller/>

Eileen de Kock Operations Manager at Wellbi

Eileen de Kock has built her career at the intersection of operations, technology, and organisational growth, with experience spanning software implementation, customer success, and business operations. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with both businesses and non-profit organisations, helping teams improve processes, adopt technology, and scale their operations effectively.

As Operations Manager at Wellbi, a South African technology startup, she plays a key role in driving operational delivery, client implementation, product development initiatives, and organisational growth. Her work has provided first-hand experience of the realities of building and scaling a purpose-driven technology business, from supporting customers and managing operations to contributing to product innovation and strategic growth.

With a passion for entrepreneurship, technology, and problem-solving, Eileen brings a practical perspective on what it takes to grow a business, lead through change, and create solutions that deliver meaningful impact.

<https://wellbi.io/about-us>



Associate Partners and Supporters

Ency Litsoane

Leader & Entrepreneur

**Founder of Ubambano Women and Youth SA
Entrepreneurship Forum**



Ency Samkelisiwe Litsoane is an accomplished leader, entrepreneur, and dedicated advocate for purpose-driven development. With over twenty years of varied experience in healthcare, entrepreneurship, corporate governance, and international trade, Ency possesses a remarkable talent for connecting sectors and fostering meaningful transformation. In her role as Head Regional Lead – Southern Africa for the Atlanta Black Chambers' Global Opportunities Committee, she is instrumental in enhancing trade and investment connections between Africa and the African diaspora. She leverages her extensive networks and impressive history of creating high-impact partnerships since her initial engagement with Atlanta in 2018.

Ency's entrepreneurial journey includes founding and leading various ventures, such as Therato Holdings, Ubambano Women and Youth SA Entrepreneurship Forum, Hemwear Africa Group, and Makwande Agri Group. Additionally, she serves as Chairperson of the FlourishHER Qhakaza Foundation Inc., which promotes women's empowerment through manufacturing and skills development, addressing period poverty. Recognized as an engaging speaker and motivator, Ency has addressed global audiences across Africa and the USA, participating in conferences in Asia, Dubai, Brazil, and beyond. Her focus areas include purpose-driven leadership, women in business, and entrepreneurship.

She has held leadership roles, including Chairperson of the South African Women Entrepreneurs Network (SAWEN) and hosted delegations alongside remarkable leaders like Ambassador Andrew J. Young, whom she first met in the USA in 2018. She was also a finalist in the Most Influential Women in Business and Government in Africa Awards from 2013 to 2016. Ency's philosophy is anchored in the belief that "when you empower the community, you empower the nation." Whether in the boardroom, on stage, or through grassroots initiatives, she continues to inspire and empower individuals to recognize their potential and transform purpose into action.

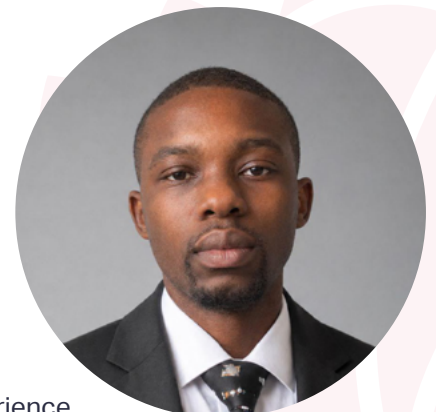
Theko Litsoane

**South African business development
and infrastructure strategist**

Theko Litsoane is a South African business development and infrastructure strategist focused on accelerating trade, investment, and sustainable economic growth across Africa.

His work spans renewable energy, project origination, capital raising, stakeholder engagement, and commercial strategy. Passionate about the intersection of finance, energy, and economic development, he is building platforms that expand access to reliable energy while supporting regional industrialization and cross-border trade.

Theko combines strong analytical ability with hands-on execution, bringing experience across diverse industries and an ability to quickly master new disciplines. Committed to continuous learning, he is furthering his studies in International Business to deepen his expertise in global commerce. His long-term vision is to help shape a more connected, energy-secure, and investment-ready African continent through strategic partnerships and innovative financial solutions.



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Links to Useful Free Online AI Training Courses

To support ongoing professional development and lifelong learning, delegates, especially our SWEEP Student Chapters, are encouraged to explore a range of free online Artificial Intelligence courses offered by reputable educational platforms, which can be completed at their own pace.

- [Coursera](#) – Series of Free Online Artificial Intelligence
- [MIT OpenCourseWare](#) – Artificial Intelligence
- [UDACITY](#) – Free Artificial Intelligence Programs
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