

ONLINE MASTERCLASS SERIES

Join us for a special **online MasterClass series** designed to deepen your understanding of the evolving digital retail landscape. Hosted in strategic partnership with the **Vaal University of Technology (VUT)** and the **W&R SETA Leadership Chair (UJ)**, this initiative is targeted towards students in Retail-related qualifications and supports the development of digitally skilled, industry-ready graduates prepared to lead in a rapidly transforming sector. Over four days, industry experts will share practical insights on retail innovation, technology trends, and digital consumer behaviour.

→ Please ensure that you register for each in order to receive the Zoom link to the respective sessions below. Without registering, we will not be able to send you the Zoom link. ←

4 August on 17:00-18:00 | Emerging Trends in Retail and Retail Technology



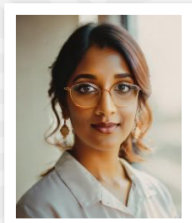
Racy Hlahla

With more than 18 years of experience in the retail sector, Racy Hlahla has effectively led and inspired teams for 17 years. He commenced his career as a casual employee at Edgars and has subsequently held senior leadership positions at Woolworths, Cotton On, and The Fix. Currently, he serves as the Operations Manager at Markham, a distinguished brand within the TFG group. Racy's leadership approach integrates empathy and strategic thinking, empowering individuals to achieve their potential while actively contributing to community upliftment and shaping the future of the retail industry. He is moreover a proud and dedicated mental health advocate.

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5 August on 17:00-18:00 | The Digital Retail Consumer



Dr Semona Pillay

Semona Pillay, a Lecturer in the Department of Marketing Management at UJ – renowned as one of the Most Progressive Researchers in Africa, her passion lies at the intersection of Marketing and Retailing. Throughout her academic career at UJ, spanning 9 years, she has made significant strides in helping to reshape and re-define the landscape of retail education. As a dedicated educator, Semona has transformed the Diploma in Retail Business Management programme, not only changing students' perceptions of Retailing but also enhancing the program to improve graduate success and employability. Semona's expertise extends to the fields of Marketing communications, Digital Marketing, and Consumer Behaviour.

Together, with Semona Pillay's wealth of academic experience and dedication to student development, as W&R Seta Leadership Chair, Semona aims to navigate collaborative opportunities, anchor in knowledge creation, and chart a course towards a future where every student's potential is not just realized but celebrated.

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6 August on 17:00-18:00 | Technology and Customer Experience



Unathi Kildase

Unathi Kildase is a VP Game and Doctoral Candidate. Through a combination of varied organisational roles and continuous academic development, Unathi's journey remains a work in progress—reflecting a belief that growth in the field should be ongoing. Over the years, Unathi has worked as part of multicultural project teams to complex organisational challenges, including route development pricing, trade route negotiations involving South Africa, export market development

in Africa, and the implementation of integrated planning systems within the retail sector.

Her academic and professional expertise has also enabled her to give back to the industry by mentoring and training aspiring women in logistics and freight. As a module developer and facilitator for AWISCA, she helped empower nearly 100 women in 2019—some of whom have since gone on to establish successful businesses in the sector.

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7 August on 17:00-18:00 | Back-End Retail Technologies



Charles Kotze

Charles Kotze is based in Cape Town and has over 25 years' experience in the technology and supply chain industries. As a powerful communicator and facilitator, Charles ensures the gap is bridged between business objectives and technology and works as Country Manager at RELEX Solutions, with expertise in retail, manufacturing, and wholesale supply chain technologies. He featured as a guest lecturer on the Honors in Supply Chain program at the University

of Johannesburg between 2000-2011 before embarking on a 2-year stint overseas. He is passionate about how technology can be applied to solve complex end-to-end supply chain planning challenges.

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