



5th ANNUAL GAUTENG ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM - GERS V

26 October 2023

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

Theme: Integrated Waste Management: Focus on Townships,
Informal Settlements and Hostels:
A Just Transition to a Circular Economy

#BEATPLASTICPOLLUTION

#RACETOZERO

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**AFRICAN CIRCULAR
ECONOMY NETWORK**



Madam Waste
URBAN AND ENERGY PLANNERS



WASA
WATER AND SANITATION
ASSOCIATION
of South Africa

GCRO

Gauteng
City-Region
Observatory



CSIR
our future through science

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Ms. Nickey Janse van Rensburg, University of Johannesburg, Process, Energy & Environmental Technology Station



Dr. Thea Schoeman



Mrs. Tracey Gilmore



Miss. Katharina Gihring



Prof. Melanie Samson



Prof. Isaac Rampedi



Dr. Gamuchirai Mutezo



Dr. Kousar B. Hoorzook



Mrs. Susanne Karcher



Mr. Malcolm Whitehouse



Miss. Tadiwanashe Dune



Miss. Gillian Maree

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



PROF. MELANIE SAMSON

Organisation they represent: University of Johannesburg

Melanie Samson is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Johannesburg. Her academic work focuses on the political ecology of reclaiming, the production of value by non-wage workers, and reclaimers' struggles to transform the economy, polity and society. Melanie facilitated the multi-party participatory process to develop the South African government's "Waste Picker Integration Guideline for South Africa" and is the primary author of the Guideline. She facilitated stakeholder participation in the development of the South Africa Waste Picker Registration System (SAWPRS) and led the piloting and initial rollout of the SAWPRS. She is a member of the multiparty working group

that is giving content to South Africa's EPR regulatory requirement that Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) pay reclaimers for the service they provide and support waste picker integration. The multi-media materials on waste picker integration that she and her team developed for the Reclaim, Revalue, Reframe project funded by the Government of Japan and UNIDO can be found at www.wastepickerintegration.org

THE OPPORTUNITIES OF TRANSITION TO CIRCULARITY AS AN OPTION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT



MISS. KATHARINA GIHRING

Organisation they represent: African Circular Economy Network

Katharina is an executive member of the African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) and has a key role in further operationalising ACEN to grow the success of the network. She coordinates and manages a multitude of projects such as Just2CE as well as Circular South Africa. Her background is in ecology, environmental management, capacitation and systems thinking with a MSc in Environmental Management (UJ - South Africa). Her main focus is on the circular economy and how this concept can be implemented in a just-way. Her

experience reaches from multidisciplinary and mix-method research, research coordination, project management, event coordination, action plan development to educational facilitator.



DR. KOUSAR B. HOORZOOK

Organisation they represent: UJ PEETS

Dr Kousar Banu Hoorzook was a Post-Doctoral Fellow (PDRF) in the Water and Health Research Centre (WHRC) until September 2022 when she joined the University of Johannesburg (UJ) Process Energy Environment Technology station (PEETS) as a program manager in the Water and Sanitation focus area. She obtained her PhD degree in Biomedical Technology from the University of Johannesburg and specialized in microbial and molecular biology

techniques for the detection of bacterial pathogens in water. Her current work at PEETS focuses on improving the competitiveness of industry and SMEs through the application of specialized knowledge, and technology and facilitating the interaction between industry (especially SMEs) and academia to enable innovation and technology transfer to grow the green economy.



MRS. SUSANNE KARCHER

Organisation they represent: Sustainable Recycling Industries

After completing Chemical Engineering studies in Germany, Susanne Karcher started her company EnviroSense CC (an Environmental Consultancy) in Cape Town in 1999 (www.envirosensecc.co.za). Her company specialises in the planning, development and facilitation of tailor-made governmental, industrial/commercial and residential "Integrated Resource and Waste Management" programmes geared towards pollution prevention. Susanne is also a founding member of the African Circular Economy Network (www.acen.africa). As a one-woman consultancy business Susanne specialised early in her career on

furthering collaborative, safe and inclusive WEEE management. Since the end of 2020 Susanne has been appointed by WRF and Empa as the National Coordinator for the Phase 2 of the SRI South Africa project <https://www.sustainable-recycling.org/> which is concerned (amongst other things) with assisting the DFFE with the development of a sustainable and inclusive National WEEE policy as well as defining operational and technical minimum standards for WEEE management operators and their facilities. In addition, the SRI project also guides relevant key stakeholders with the development of WEEE educational curriculum and local WEEE project implementation frameworks. Recently, Susanne was mandated by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) to represent South Africa at the ISO Technical Committees on Environmental Management (TC207/SC5) and Circular Economy (TC323).



MISS. TADIWANASHE DUNE

Organisation they represent: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - National Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa (NCPC-SA)

Miss Tadiwanashe (Tiwa) Dune (M.Sc. , Pr.Sci.Nat) – Project Manager, National Cleaner Production Centre. Tiwa is an experienced Senior Environmental Scientist with a demonstrated history of leading environmental and waste projects in the environmental management industry. This includes development and review of Integrated Waste Management Plans, Landfill Site Auditing, Regional Landfill Feasibility and Drop Off Centre Studies, Industrial Symbiosis and Waste Management Compliance. She is a

Project Manager at NCPC-SA, focusing on conducting Waste Assessments, Waste to Product and Landfill Diversion Projects for the Industrial Symbiosis Programme. She is registered as a Professional Environmental Scientist with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professionals (Pr.Sci.Nat, SACNASP) with a Master of Environmental Science (M.Sc. Environmental Science) from Wits University.

INCLUSIVITY IN THE WASTE MANAGEMENT VALUE CHAIN IN GAUTENG PROVINCE



PROF. ISAAC RAMPEDI

Organisation they represent: UJ Department of Geography, Environmental Management & Energy Studies

Professor Isaac Rampedi teaches undergraduate and post graduate degree modules in the Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies at UJ. He supervises students in the broad area of environmental management. He has published papers in the area of environmental management as well as waste management.



MISS. GILLIAN MAREE

Organisation they represent: Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO)

Gillian Maree is a Senior Researcher at the GCRO. She is an Urban Planner specialising in sustainability, environmental management and spatial planning; with a specific interest in water and biodiversity. Gillian has worked in both the public and private sectors examining how urban and infrastructure development relates to sustainability, natural resource management, spatial planning and policy. Before joining the GCRO she worked at the South African Cities Network (SACN) as a Researcher within the Sustainable Cities

programme and had a project focus on water, climate change, urban indicators and support to local government on environmental issues. From 2001 to 2007 she worked at the CSIR as a researcher in systematic biodiversity planning, water resources management, GIS and governance. Her research interests focus on the intersection, and interdisciplinarity, between science, society and spatial planning within urban environments. Recent work has brought a strong focus cities, indicator development and data management what this means for more sustainable urban areas.



DR. THEA SCHOEMAN

Organisation they represent: University of Johannesburg

Thea Schoeman is a Senior Lecturer in Geography & Environmental Management at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, since 2002. She holds a PhD in Environmental Management from the University of Johannesburg (UJ) with specialization in waste minimization. Her research focuses on the informal sector in waste management and recycling behaviour. Her most recent research

has e-waste as focus and includes the volume of e-waste in households, e-waste recycling behaviour, the role of waste pickers in e-waste and the training of waste pickers in the repair of e-waste. She is the principal investigator of the research project WEEE Transform – Training of the informal sector and household participation in the e-waste sector funded by the South African Department of Science and Innovation as part of the Waste RDI Roadmap.



MRS. TRACEY GILMORE

Organisation they represent: Taking Care of Business

Tracey Gilmore is the co-founder of Taking Care of Business (previously The Clothing Bank) which empowers unemployed South Africans to access sustainable small business opportunities while responsibly reducing supply chain waste. With a background in small business operations

and development, Tracey brings a wealth of experience to the organization. Her passion for creating an inclusive society that prioritizes equal access to opportunities and financial freedom drives her efforts to provide unemployed men and women with the resources and support they need to succeed. Tracey serves as the Chief Operations Officer, overseeing the operations of the organization's five branches. Tracey Gilmore and her business partner Tracey Chambers conceptualized Taking Care of Business after recognizing the potential for using excess "waste" stock in the retail supply chain to teach women how to run small trading businesses. The organization has since expanded to five cities across South Africa, training and supporting over thousands of men and women and helping these micro-enterprises to generate profits.



DR. GAMUCHIRAI MUTEZO

Organisation they represent: Madam Waste

Dr Gamuchirai Mutezo is a Post Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Ecological Intelligence (University of Johannesburg) focusing on agro-ecology, organic waste management and circular economy. Dr Mutezo has over 12 years' work experience underpinned by entrepreneurship, renewable energy, applied research and development, all with a keen focus on decentralising energy access in African cities using anaerobic digestion. She holds a B. Town and Regional Planning (University of Pretoria), an MPhil Energy Poverty and Development (University of Cape Town), Project Management

Certificate (University of South Africa) and a DPhil in Urban Biogas and Circular Economy (University of the Witwatersrand). Dr Mutezo is a member of the African Circular Business Alliance (ACBA), African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) - South Africa and South African Biogas Industry Association (SABIA). She enjoys travelling, reading and worldly conversations.

IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATORY TOOLS TO FAST TRACK WASTE MINIMISATION AND DIVERSION IN THE PROVINCE



MR. MALCOLM WHITEHOUSE

Organisation they represent: eWASA

Malcolm Whitehouse, a Benoni, Johannesburg resident, married with three children, serves as the Operations Executive at eWASA for EEE, Lighting, and Portable Batteries categories in South Africa. With extensive expertise in E-Waste management, including ISO certifications, he's a prominent figure in global e-waste management forums and a contributor to R2 Technical Advisory Committee - TAC's development efforts. He plays a pivotal role in crafting EPR legislation, integrating informal waste pickers, and creating a national e-waste worker curriculum. Committed to environmental cleanup and resource recovery, Malcolm actively supports Operation Phakisa and is involved in projects for PGM metal beneficiation and WEEE technology. Additionally, he holds Christian ministry and road freight management qualifications. Additionally, Malcolm is part of

the SA Platinum Group Metals Industry Roadmap run by Mintek, focusing on the local beneficiation of PGM group metals from spent Auto Catalytic Converters and Printed Circuit Boards, and he's engaged in the WEEE Technology workshop run by RWT HAACHEN University and the University of Cape Town.