



WITS SARIMA CARNEGIE GLOBAL ETHICS DAY PROGRAMME

Impact of Multidimensional Vulnerability on
the Research and Innovation Landscape



The Wits Research Integrity Office, in collaboration with the SARIMA Community of Practice in Research Ethics and Integrity and Carnegie, will host its annual Ethics Colloquium under the theme: “Impact of Multidimensional Vulnerability on the Research and Innovation Landscape.” This year’s event will explore pressing ethical dilemmas in contemporary research, particularly in light of complex and intersecting forms of vulnerability that arise from rapid developments in AI, big data, health, geopolitical landscape and social systems. Short presentations will be delivered by colleagues from diverse disciplines who share a commitment to promoting research ethics and integrity. Time permitting, an open discussion forum will follow, inviting reflection on these challenges within both African and global contexts. All Wits staff, students, and external stakeholders are warmly invited to attend the Wits-SARIMA-Carnegie Global Ethics Day 2025 and engage in this important dialogue.

Date: Thursday, 24 July 2025 | **Time:** 14:00 – 17:00

RSVP HERE

RSVP by no later than Tuesday, 22 July 2025. The event joining link will be sent once the RSVP has been received. Enquiries: eleni.flack-davison@wits.ac.za or mokgaetsi.madubanya@wits.ac.za

TIME	TOPICS	INSTITUTION	PRESENTER
14:00-14:10	Welcome / Introduction	Wits DVC: R&I	Prof. Lynn Morris
14:10-14:15	Brief Outline of Wits Ethics and Integrity	Wits Head: Research Integrity Office / Research Compliance Officer / Legal Adviser	Ms. Eleni Flack-Davison
14:15-14:35	Digital Divides, Ethical Fault Lines: Unequal Access to AI and Rising Vulnerabilities	Academic Integrity Lead Oxford Brookes Business School Oxford Brookes University	Prof. Mary Davis
14:35 – 14:55	“Health Systems in the Crossfire: The US Stop Order and Private Sector Vulnerability”	Head of Legal and Ethics at Discovery Health Medical Scheme / Director and Head of Healthcare & Life Sciences at Werksmans	Howard Snoyman / Neil Kirby
15:55 – 15:10	Paperwork vs. Welfare: The Ethical Cost of Section 20 Animal Diseases Act Permit Delays on Animal Research Subjects	Manager: Research Ethics (Animals, Biosafety and Permit Compliance) Stellenbosch University	Mr. Winston Beukes
15:10 – 15:25	AI Use from an Editor’s Perspective	Wits: School of Human & Community Development: Psychology	Prof. Sumaya Laher
15:25 – 15:45	At Risk: How Gaps in Biosafety and Biorisk Management Increase Vulnerability	National Institute for Communicable Diseases - Biorisk Specialist	Mr Wayne Howard / Dr Anastasia Trataris-Rebisz (NICD)
15:45 – 15:55	Comfort Break		
15:55 – 16:10	Balancing Risk and Inclusion: Ethical Oversight of Studies Involving Pregnant Women, Minors, and HIV-Positive Participants	Wits HREC: Medical Chair	Prof. Paul Ruff
16:10 – 16:25	Ethics in an Unequal World: Addressing Socio-Economic Vulnerability in Research Systems	Wits Southern Center of Inequality	Mr. Niall Reddy and Aroop Chatterjee
16:25 – 16:40	Between Truth and Harm: Ethical Reflections on Vulnerability in Journalism	Wits Journalism	Dr. Nechama Brodie
16:40 – 16:55	From Tool to Threat: The Ethical Fallout of Misusing AI in Vulnerable Research Contexts	Turnitin	Mr. Jason Gibson
16:55 – 17:00	Open Discussion and Closure	Wits Head: Research Integrity Office / Research Compliance Officer / Legal Adviser	Ms. Eleni Flack-Davison



Contact:

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