

PROGRAMME

DYNAMICS OF HUMANISATION
LEARNING AND TEACHING WEEK

4 - 6 AUGUST 2026

OCEAN SCIENCES



THEME:

Innovation With Impact
**Humanising Teaching for
Transformative Higher Education**

Introduction

The Institutional Learning and Teaching Week 2026 is an annual flagship event that aims to advance the University's strategic priorities related to student success, transformation and social justice, engaged scholarship, purposeful digitalisation, and a humanising institutional culture. The week provides a platform for scholarly and reflective curriculum and pedagogical engagements. Among the demands made by the #FeesMustFall movement that started in 2015 in the South African higher education landscape, a clear message from students was that the process of decolonising education is taking too long. Le Grange (2016) reminds us that the decolonisation within higher education is a complex and ongoing process with the curriculum key to this transformation. He also stresses that curriculum decolonisation cannot happen unless the very idea of "curriculum" is interrogated. At Mandela this interrogation is underscored by our situatedness on the African continent. This year will once again be an opportunity for academic, professional staff and students to engage critically with contemporary approaches to teaching, learning, and assessment in the higher education landscape. This dynamic platform is expected to be a space for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and scholarly interrogation, emphasizing teaching as an intellectual and ethical practice grounded in context and evidence informed. While the week will no doubt provide the opportunity to showcase innovation in the Learning and Teaching space, it will also provide an opportunity to interrogate its pedagogical rationale, its transformative impact, adaptability, and overall sustainability.



To access the individual abstracts please click here.



Foreword

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR: LEARNING AND TEACHING PROF MUKI MOENG

The Learning and Teaching Week at Nelson Mandela University has, over the years, established itself as a significant platform for advancing the scholarship of teaching and learning. Each annual theme has contributed to the consolidation of a culture in which pedagogical innovation, reflective practice, and scholarly inquiry are foregrounded. From early engagements with the pedagogy of care, transformative and innovative pedagogies, and teaching in a technology-driven era, through emphases on student success and inclusive excellence, the trajectory of these themes demonstrates a deliberate and sustained commitment to building an institutional ethos that values both academic rigour and transformative educational practice.

The cumulative effect of these thematic explorations has been the strengthening of a scholarly community dedicated to interrogating and enhancing learning and teaching. By revisiting and extending prior conversations, the University has cultivated a dynamic environment in which the scholarship of teaching and learning is not only encouraged but embedded as a defining feature of our academic identity.

This year's programme, shaped by the abstracts submitted by colleagues and enriched by the student voice, promises to extend these dialogues in meaningful ways. The contributions of staff and students alike will provide critical perspectives on contemporary challenges and opportunities, ensuring that our discussions remain responsive to the evolving higher education landscape. The inclusion of student perspectives is particularly significant, as it underscores the principle that learning and teaching are co-constructed processes, requiring active engagement from all participants in the academic community.

As we convene for this year's Learning and Teaching Week, we do so with the recognition that our collective efforts are integral to shaping an inclusive and forward-looking culture of scholarship. It is in this spirit that we anticipate robust dialogue, critical reflection, and the generation of new insights that will continue to advance the University's vision for excellence in learning and teaching.

I am looking forward to a successful Learning and Teaching Week.



Welcome

CHAIR OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING WEEK, DR NOLUTHANDO TONI

The local organizing committee (LOC) and its various working groups spent many hours planning for the 2026 instalment of the learning and teaching (LT) week. The long hours of engagement and exchange of ideas culminated in the formulation of a theme that explores the essence of innovation, i.e. innovation with impact. As an institution that foregrounds a human-centered approach, it was imperative to invite participants to also explore what a transformative approach in learning and teaching entails. The response, in terms of the many abstracts that were submitted aptly responded to the call.

We are very excited to welcome all the participants, especially presenters who will be sharing their research and innovative teaching and learning practices. As the chair of the LOC, it is my singular honour to particularly welcome to Nelson Mandela University participants from other South African higher education institutions. Having presenters from other universities is a sign of growth and expansion of transformative practices in the South African Higher Education landscape. We hope to continue in this trajectory for the advancement of learning and teaching in higher education.

The 2026 LT week programme consists of formal presentations, couch and table transformative conversations, poster presentations, collaborative doodling and various interactive activities. We are looking forward to a feast of intellectual exchanges and demonstration of innovative practices. The design and rollout of the programme give meaning to Paulo Freire's (1970) notion of dialogical engagements.

I invite participants to engage with boldness and intellectual rigour. What excites me even more is the inclusive approach of bringing together academics, students, leaders and managers as well as professional administrative staff with a common aim of further exploring the **dynamics of humanisation**.



DAY 1: Tuesday, 4 August 2026

Theme: Reframing Teaching - From Delivery to Transformation

Chair: Dr Nehemiah Latolla and Dr Noluthando Toni

Registration and Coffee	07h30 – 08h30	
Collaborative Doodling	Interactive Wall: “What does impact look like in your teaching?”	
Presentation	Time	Presenters
SHE Briefing	08h30 – 08h35	Ms Xolisa Lubambo
Opening Welcome	08h35 – 08h55	Prof Sibongile Muthwa
Opening Address	08h55 – 09h05	Prof Muki Moeng
Video	09h05 – 09h10	LT Week Marketing
Remarks	09h10 – 09h15	Programme Chair
What does “human-centred teaching” actually mean in practice? – a couch conversation.	09h15 – 10h30	Dr Jean-Pierre Basson - EBET Dr Buyiswa Hlangothi -Science Ms Lee-Anne Macpherson - BES Ms Kgomotso Motoung - Student Rep. Moderated by Mr Adriaan Andrews
Tea & Coffee Break 10h30 – 11h00		
Transformation Trees 10h30 – 11h00 Participants write their teaching wish or frustration on a leaf and hang it on the “transformation trees” outside in the foyer. Leaves are collected for a digital mural. Copies of the mural can be printed and distributed to all attendees of the day.		
Overview of the Language Policy	11h00-11h15	Prof Pamela Maseko
Intellectualising Multilingualism at Mandela: Language policy, pedagogies and practices	11h15-12h15	Language projects show and tell by faculties and institutional entities Facilitated by Dr Lück
Multilingualism Discussion	12h15-12h30	Facilitated by Dr Lück

Presentation	Time	Presenters
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 12H30 - 13H00		
<i>Multilingualism Presentation</i> Towards an integrated understanding of the English Home Language curriculum: B Ed final year students design integrated tasks	12h30 - 13h00 (AUDITORIUM)	Dr Eileen Scheckle and Miss Kholisa Papu
Crafting connections: Interdisciplinary explorations of arts-based assessments in teacher education	12h30 - 13h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Dr Marelize van Heerden, Dr Margie Childs and Prof Heloise Sathorar
Literacy and Professional Development of ECP Educators: A Framework for Responsible Integration in Teaching and Learning	12h30 - 13h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Mr Albert Maile
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 13H00 - 13H30		
<i>Multilingualism Presentation</i> Language as Engagement Infrastructure: Towards an Epistemically Inclusive Framework for Community Engagement in Higher Education.	13h00 - 13h30 (AUDITORIUM)	Ms Makamu Nompilo, Ms Tlhaku Phaello, Dr Bruce Damons, and Mr Afika Dotye
Reconceptualising student engagement as relational becoming: Africanised pedagogies of recognition, agency, and success in Higher Education	13h00 - 13h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Dr Noluvo Rangana
Invoking a pedagogy of care in higher education towards equitable societies	13h00 - 13h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Prof Mathabo Khau
From Drawing to Touch: Exploring Embodied Learning Through 3D Printing Pedagogy in Geosciences Education.	13h00 - 13h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Mr Gideon Brundson and Dr Jean-Pierre Basson
Lunch Break 13h30 – 14h00		
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 14H00 - 14H30		
Pedagogical Imaginaries for Eco-Pedagogical Life Skills: Humanising Foundation Phase Teacher Education Through Arts-Informed Research	14h00 - 14h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Ms Ntombebongo Peteni
Title of your work: Educational Chronotopes in Digital Higher Education: A Bibliometric Mapping of Research Trends (2015–2025)	14h00 - 14h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Mr Josh Jacobs and Prof Heloise Sathorar

Presentation	Time	Presenters
Leveraging Funda to maximise student engagement, access and success	14h00 - 14h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Ms Kimberley Tserema
When Students and Universities View Learning Differently: Implications for Engagement and Success	14h00 - 14h30 (AUDITORIUM)	Ms Claudia Swart-Jansen van Vuuren, Prof Eli Bitzer, and Dr Hanelie Adendorf
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 14H30 - 15H00		
From Compliance to Critical Thinking: Case-Based Learning in Food Regulations Education	14h30 - 15h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Dr Minenhle Khoza
Cultivating Synergy in Higher Education Pedagogy: Eco-Pedagogy, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and Garden-Based Teacher Education	14h30 - 15h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Prof Heloise Sathorar, Prof Deidre Geduld, Mr Reinhold Gallant
Cultivating Servant Leadership Among Supplemental Instruction Leaders: Aligning Practice with Institutional Values at Nelson Mandela University	14h30 - 15h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Dr Philip Kitching and Dr Vuyelwa Dondolo
Can Critical Thinking Still Be Taught in the Age of AI? Reframing Criticality through Reflective Practitioner Inquiry in Educational Theory	14h30 - 15h00 (AUDITORIUM)	Mr Lukhanyo Boligello
Tea & Coffee Break 15h00 – 15h30		
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 15H30 - 16H00		
Unplugged coding – reaching all our learners	15h30 - 16h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Prof Jean Greyling
The Human Side of PBL: Psychological Wellbeing in Problem-Based Learning among Health Sciences Students and Academic Staff through an Ubuntu Lens: An Integrative Review	15h30 - 16h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Dr Nkhensani Mabunda
Developing Industry ready Environmental Health graduates – A reflection of a collaborative teaching innovation towards assessment for learning	15h30 - 16h00 (AUDITORIUM) <i>Hybrid</i>	Dr Makhutsisa Mokoatle and Ms Raeesa Mayet
ENERGY ECHOES Closing Remarks	16h15 – 16h30 (AUDITORIUM)	Dr Paul Tai-Hing

DAY 2: Wednesday, 5 August 2026

Theme: Practice, experimentation, inclusion, scholarship

Chair: Dr Noluthando Toni and Dr Lincoln Jansen

Registration and Coffee	07h30 – 08h30	
Presentation	Time	Presenters
Opening Remarks Video	08h30 – 08h35 08h35 – 08h40	Chair LT Week Marketing
The Transformation Table – Transformative Leadership for Student Success in a Changing World	08h45 – 09h45	DVCs: Prof Muki Moeng Prof Andre Keet Prof Azwinndini Murongo Mr Luthando Jack <i>Moderated by Prof Annaline Keet</i>
Tea & Coffee Break 9h45 – 10h15 <i>Inclusion Puzzle Wall</i>		
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 10H30 - 11H00		
Moving beyond performative inclusion toward systemic change: A case of a South African university	10h30 - 11h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Ms Ramathetse Belinda Matabane
The Human-Centric Lab: Pioneering Education 5.0 in Chemical Technology	10h30 - 11h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Dr Shawn Gouws
Epistemic Freedom: Dismantling Eurocentric Hegemony through a Communiversy Model within Statutory Sub- Frameworks (HEQSF/CHE)	10h30 - 11h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Prof Sanjay Balkaran and Dr Vuyani Langa
From Bottlenecks to Bridges: Humanising Student Success in BEng Mechatronics through Data-Informed Curriculum Renewal	10h30 - 11h00 (AUDITORIUM)	Prof Farouk Smith
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 11H00 - 11H30		
From Accommodation to Transformation: Advancing Student Success through Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education	11h00 - 11h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1) <i>Virtual</i>	Ms Maxine Mopp
Beyond Accommodation: Towards Humanising and Epistemological Access for Deaf Students in South African Higher Education	11h00 - 11h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	By Mrs Simoné du Preez

Recognition of Prior Learning as Humanising Pedagogy: Advancing Access, Equity, and Student Success in South African Higher Education	11h00 - 11h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Mrs Bridget Mahlakahlaka
Beyond the Test: Humanising Assessment Through Authentic and Transformative Practices	11h00 - 12h00 (AUDITORIUM)	By Mr Khetho Tshipala (panel chair) Ms Thuliswa Dlokova CA(SA) Mr Mzwanele Mdweshu CA(SA) Mr Mngqobi Mgoduka (Student Representative)
Presentation	Time	Presenters
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 11H30 - 12H00		
Reflecting on the value of culturally responsive pedagogy based on my praxis in university classes	11h30 - 12h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Prof Logamurthie Athiemoolam
Where are the young men? Addressing gender mis/representation in higher education	11h30 - 12h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Prof Mathabo Khau, Mr Lukhanyo Boligello, Mr Malesela Maepa, Mr Yanga Lusasa
Contemplating humanising pedagogy in postgraduate education: implications on scholarship and sustainability	11h30 - 12h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Dr Walters Doh Nubia
COUCH CONVERSATION 12H00 - 13H00		
When innovation fails - lessons we don't talk about	Mr Yongamela Magadla – Student Rep Adv Lindi Coetzee – Law Dr Makhosi Madimabe-Mofokeng- Education Dr Reno Morar – Health Science Dr Mieke Kotze – Humanities <i>Moderated by Dr Lincoln Jansen</i>	
LUNCH BREAK 13h00 - 14h00 "Moments that Matter" Cards		
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 14H00 - 15H00		
From Colonial Legacy to Humanising Practice: The role of the Educator in addressing Equity, Access, and Inclusion in South African Higher Education	14h00 -14h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Miss Rebaona Nakedi
From Teaching to Participatory Knowledge Co-Creation: Cellphilmimg as a Humanising and Transformative Pedagogy in Teacher Education	14h00 – 14h30 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Dr Veronica Msutwana
From Passive Learners to Tax Advocates: Humanising Tax Education through the Tax Moot Court Competition	14h30 – 15h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Mr Mzwanele Mdweshu
Humanising Digital Spaces: Disrupting Anglocentric LMS Norms through Critical Digital Translanguaging	14h30 – 15h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Mr Mukhtar Raban

Panel Discussion: Co-created Humanising Pedagogies in Higher Education: Dialogues on Indigenous Medicinal Plants	14h00 – 15h00 (AUDITORIUM)	Dr Mea van Huyssteen; Dr Yoshna Kooverjee; Mr Thabo Sempe; Ms Nobuntu Ntantiso; Ms Nthabiseng Tshabalala
Workshop: Innovative Teaching Strategies - Towards students’ success	14h00 – 15h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Prof Ann Lourens, Dr Mohlomi Raliile, Mr Hyacinthe Tonga
Tea & Coffee Break 15h00 – 15h30		
Innovation Pitch Poster Presentations Session 15h30 – 16h00 AUDITORIUM		
Innovation Presentation 1: 15h30 – 15h45 Establishing a Transformative Learning Journey in Physiology for Active Citizenry: Implementing a Humanized Approach in Undergraduate Classes Dr Shantal Windvogel and Prof Faadiel Essop		
Innovation Presentation 2: 15h45 – 16h00 Mapping Our Collective Future: How a Collaborative SDG Poster Presentation Redefined My Academic Journey Miss Cinga Mgandela		
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 15H30 - 16H15		
Panel Discussion: Co-creation in empty classrooms? Student attendance, engagement and the humanising pedagogy debate	15h30 – 16h00 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Prof Stephen Mago Prof Florah Modiba Dr Danai Tembo
‘Hunger is temporary, the drip is forever ’ – SNAC sessions as a student centred approach towards addressing the social dimensions of student hunger.’	15h30 – 16h15 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Dr Natalie Mansvelt Ms Amy De Raedt Ms Nomthandazo Pukwana
Circle of Echoes Closing Remarks	16h00 – 16h15 (AUDITORIUM) Dr Paul Tai-Hing	
COCKTAILS AND CANAPES: 17h00 – 19h00		

DAY 3: Thursday, 6 August 2026

Theme: From Practice to Scholarship & Sustainability

Chair: Dr Noluthando Toni and Dr Lincoln Jansen

Registration and Coffee	07h30 – 08h30 "One Idea I'm Taking Forward" Board	
Presentation	Time	Presenters
Video Remarks	08h30 – 08h35 08h35 – 08h40	LT Week Marketing Chair
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 08H45 - 09H15		
The Feedback Compass: Humanising Feedback Through a Dialogic Digital Companion for Higher Education	08h45 - 09h15 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Dr Jean-Pierre Basson
Humanising Teaching in the Age of AI: Reclaiming Assessment as Evidence of Graduate Capability	08h45 - 09h15 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Prof Darelle van Greunen
Placing The Body at the Centre of Learning: Re-Claiming What it Means to be Human	08h45 - 09h15 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Dr Marelize van Heerden
Emphasising the importance of "soft skills" in science	08h45 - 09h15 (AUDITORIUM)	Ms Penny Lithauer, Miss Margeaux Liberty, Miss Okuhle Cembi, Ms Dieketseng Masudubele
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 09H15 - 09H45		
Decrypting module credits, and notional hours to develop a student time management tool: Making Workload Visible	09h15 - 09h45 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Ms Penny Lithauer
Beyond Automated Grading: Item-Level Analytics for Large-Scale Digital Skills Assessment	09h15 - 09h45 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2)	Dr Mark Brand
From AI Detection to Assessment Transformation: Lessons from Social-Consciousness and Sustainable Futures Module	09h15 - 09h45 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Ms Dipuo Seripe
Rethinking the Pedagogical Front: Reforming Undergraduate Economics Education	09h15 - 09h45 (AUDITORIUM)	Mr Luthando Mbana
Tea & Coffee Break 9h45 – 10h15		

Presentation	Time	Presenters
THE MANDELA TABLE Courageous Conversations on the Future of Higher Education.	10h15 – 11h15 (AUDITORIUM)	Dr Lynn Biggs - Law Prof Syden Mishi – BES Mr Edgar de Koker - Registrar Mr Michael Monaghan - Finance Facilitated by Dr Jasmine Kinsman
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS 11H15 - 11H45		
The use of arts-based approaches in university classes for the promotion of student engagement, agency and success	11h15 - 11h45 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 1)	Prof Logamurthie Athiemoolam and Ms Njabulo Mavuso
The Von Neumann - inspired scaling system shaping a mentoring model at Nelson Mandela University	11h15 - 11h45 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 2) <i>Online</i>	Mr Chevandr� Louw, Mr Thapelo Matlala, Mr Francisco De Vega and Mrs Ronelle Plaatjes
Exploring lecturer-student self-assessment literacies within the context of a learning-centred assessment approach	11h15 - 11h45 (BREAKAWAY ROOM 3)	Ms Charmaine van der Merwe, Prof Eli Bitzer, Dr Hanelie Adendorff
The Human Library	11h45 – 12h30 (AUDITORIUM)	Prof Muki Moeng
Proceedings Summary & Way Forward	12h30 – 12h45	LT Week Chair: Dr Noluthando Toni
Votes of Thanks	12h45 – 13h00	DVC LT: Prof Muki Moeng
Lunch Break And Departure 13h00		