

SCIENCE WITH JAZZ SEMINAR SERIES

"Where Science and Jazz combine"

 **28 October**
Wednesday 2026

 **16h30**

 **Coastlands Hotel Musgrave,
Suite1-3**

SPEAKER:

Professor David Lokhat,
Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering, UKZN

TOPIC:

The Big Convergence
– are we prepared for a new way of research

JAZZ ARTIST:

Lu Dlamini
and The Prophets
vocalist , composer and
traditional instrumentalist

SYNOPSIS: The Big Convergence – are we prepared for a new way of research

Most contemporary social and environmental problems are increasingly "wicked", having no clear definitions nor solutions, and intersecting multiple and often conflicting societal needs. We have seen great efforts to merge overlapping disciplines and challenge areas, defining various nexuses between water, energy, health, food and climate. Recently, *convergence research* has emerged as an effective framework for tackling complex interdependent problems. It intentionally integrates seemingly disparate knowledge systems, methodologies, and expertise in a way that enables asking and answering research questions in completely new, and successful ways. What is convergence, and how can we apply it? This talk will introduce the fascinating concept.



PROFESSOR DAVID LOKHAT is the uMngeni-uThukela Water Chair in Water Resources Research and Innovation, African Rainbow Minerals Chair in Sustainable Engineering and Process Intensification, and the Director of the Centre for Water Resources Research at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is a Fellow of the South African Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the South African Academy of Engineering. He has been actively engaged in the advocacy and promotion of chemical engineering as a discipline, and has held numerous leadership roles within professional and academic societies.



LU DLAMINI is a Durban-based vocalist , composer and a traditional instrumentalist, who hails from the Natal South Coast and comes from a musical family. She is known for her distinctive style, as showcased in her previous album, "Ulimilam." In her reflections, Dlamini draws on South Africa's complex history, noting the contrast between the hopeful songs of the past and the current challenges faced by many. She highlights the role of music in advocating for peace and social justice, and how it served as a platform for expressing a vision of unity during times of political struggle she continues to use her music to foster understanding and promote a cohesive culture.

ABOUT THE SCIENCE WITH JAZZ SEMINAR SERIES: *Following on from the successful 2025 series, the Centre for Quantum Computing and Technology at UKZN presents a series of science seminars combined with Jazz concerts, that informs about relevant concepts in science and technology and their societal impacts. This monthly series intends to inspire inter-disciplinary discussions and synergies, in particular between the sciences and the arts.*

Refreshments after presentation

ENQUIRIES: Sally Frost /frosts@ukzn.ac.za / 031 260 7642

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