



The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
and the Royal Society of South Africa (RSSAf)
cordially invite you to the first in a series of monthly online science discussions

Science and War

Date: 29 March 2022

Time: 16:00 - 17:30

Register: [Click here](#)

Venue: Zoom (link to be provided upon registration)

Background

In times of war, scientists ask themselves what their role can and should be, in the face of humanitarian disasters, disruption and challenges to our ability to collaborate on a global platform. History shows us that science can do great good, and great harm. Our responsibility now is to seek knowledge for the good of humanity.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the response of the academic community to the current crisis in Eastern Europe. It is clear, too, that as part of the greater global society, we acknowledge the severe impacts of all wars against humanity, whether in Europe or the Middle East or Africa. We should embrace fleeing refugees from the Congo or Syria with the same concern as those from Ukraine - only then does international solidarity mean anything at all.

There is reason for pause, and to consider the issues that are at stake because of wars: the disruption and destruction of human lives and the halting of progress towards addressing the broadest global challenges – hunger, poverty, climate change, pandemics, inequalities and natural disasters. Scientists across the world should be supported in working together to find solutions, for peace and the greater good.

Programme

Facilitators:

Prof Jonathan Jansen, President, ASSAf

Prof Stephanie Burton, Vice-President ASSAf & President RSSAf

16:00 – 16:05	Welcome and Introduction Prof Stephanie Burton
16:05 – 16:10	Background to the Discussion Prof Jonathan Jansen
16:10 – 16:20	Prof Stella Nkomo Department of Human Resource Management, University of Pretoria
16:20 – 16:30	Prof Nithaya Chetty Faculty of Science, University of the Witwatersrand
16:30 – 16:40	Prof Keymanthri Moodley Department of Medicine and Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Faculty of Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University
16:40 – 17:00	Prof Salim Vally Centre for Education Rights and Transformation, Faculty of Education, University of Johannesburg
17:00 – 17:25	Q&A
17:25 – 17:30	Closing Prof Irvy Gledhill University of Witwatersrand



Biographies



Prof Stella Nkomo

Prof Stella Nkomo is a Professor in the Department of Human Resource Management at the University of Pretoria. She is the former Deputy Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (University of Pretoria). Her research focuses on diversity, difference, and race and gender in organisations, particularly the exclusion of marginalised voices in management and organisation studies. Professor Nkomo's research has been published in numerous management journals and edited volumes. She has received numerous awards for her scholarly contributions including the Sage Scholarly Contributions Award (Academy of Management) for her research on gender and diversity in organisations; the Distinguished Woman Scholar in the Social Sciences Award from the Department of Science and Technology (South Africa), and the International Leadership Association Lifetime Achievement Award. Professor Nkomo is A-rated South African researcher and the founding President of the Africa Academy of Management.



Prof Nithaya Chetty

Prof Nithaya Chetty is Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). He was Deputy CEO: Astronomy at the NRF and a President of the South African Institute of Physics. He is a two-time winner of the American Fulbright Fellowship. He was the recipient of the NRF President's Award. He serves as Vice President of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics with responsibility for membership.



Prof Keymanthri Moodley

Prof Keymanthri Moodley is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Medicine and Director of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Faculty of Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University (SU). The Centre was designated as a Collaborating Centre in Bioethics in 2019 by the World Health Organisation (WHO), one of twelve in the world and the first on the African continent. Keymanthri is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Social Medicine, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, USA. She is a specialist family physician, bioethicist, an NRF rated researcher and a member of ASSAf. To date, she has been awarded grants to the approximate value of R68 million. The Centre has trained 40 mid-career professionals from 10 African countries in bioethics and currently has 8 PhD trainees. Keymanthri serves on the Scientific Advisory Committee of EDCTP. Her most recent NIH funded research project explores ethical, legal and social issues in Data Science Innovation in Africa.



Prof Salim Vally

Prof Salim Vally is the director of the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation, the DHET-NRF SARCHI chair in community, adult and workers' education and a professor based at the Faculty of Education, University of Johannesburg (UJ). He is also a visiting professor at the Nelson Mandela University. His latest co-edited book is *The University and Social Justice: Struggles Across the Globe* (Pluto Press, 2020). He studied at the universities of York, Witwatersrand and KwaZulu-Natal and was previously a secondary school teacher and a trade unionist before joining the Wits Education Policy Unit in 1994. Prof Vally joined UJ in 2009 and was a visiting lecturer at Columbia and York universities. He serves on the editorial boards of four academic journals, is on the board of various global and local organisations and is active in various social movements. He continues with his abiding interest in linking academic scholarship with societal concerns, community participation and global solidarity.