



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



# SCHOOL OF **CONSTRUCTION ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT**



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**CONSTRUCTION  
ECONOMICS  
& MANAGEMENT**

# CEM Research Unit

**The main goals of the School of Construction Economics & Management (CEM) Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand are as follows:**

## **Promoting global exchange**

The WITS Real Estate Opportunities Fund should enable students from all over South Africa and abroad to access real estate degrees at WITS, by providing scholarships to exceptional students who need financial help to study at WITS, freeing them to gain skills for employment or further study and pursuing their career aspirations. Scholarships ensure that gifted students can complete their courses without financial pressure, while making WITS a global classroom with international perspectives in programmes and courses.

## **Investing in research talent**

Much of the research undertaken at WITS is from now on expected to be world-leading, and contribute to technical solutions to some of the biggest challenges the real estate industry faces in South Africa in terms of investments, market fundamentals, green buildings and corporate real estate, to name a few. The WITS Real Estate Opportunities Fund should help this effort by giving young researchers the opportunity to attend conferences, present their work or gain international research experience.

## **Enriching the student experience**

A great living and study environment enables students and young researchers at WITS to get the most out of their studies. The WITS Real Estate Opportunities Fund will support activities that enrich students' experiences at WITS, developing their skills in teamwork, innovation and creativity. It will help the School to develop high impact student initiatives, making WITS an even greater place to study real estate, producing graduates with broad perspectives.

## **The CEM Research Unit comprises of two steams:**

- Construction Studies
  - Construction Management
  - Quantity Surveying
- Real Estate

The CEM Research Unit comprises of different personnel with different expertise. Their names, including their expertise, are listed in the brochure as their knowledge streams.

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## CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

### **Oluwayomi Babatunde**

He is a Senior Lecturer in Project Management and Construction Project Management at the School of Construction Economics & Management, the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS). He holds BSc. Hons and Master degrees in Architecture from the Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria); MSc and PhD degrees in Project Management from the National University of Singapore; and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Higher Education) from WITS University. His doctoral research work focused on quality management in international projects, which influences his postdoctoral research interests to cohere around Total Quality Management (TQM). He is also an editorial panel member of The TQM Journal. **Orcid Link:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5898-6528>

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### **Sitsabo Dlamini**

Dr Sitsabo Dlamini is an accomplished academic and industry expert of vision who has established himself as a reputable professional of creativity, conviction and tireless devotion to best practice in infrastructure development. He is a Lecturer in the School of Construction Economics and Management at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is also a Director for Sitsabo Project Managers, a multi-disciplinary consultancy in infrastructure development, which he founded in 2004. Dr Dlamini pioneered his work in South Africa during his study period in Pretoria in the early 1990s after graduation, as he worked for Mike Payne Architects in Witbank, and later at RFB Architects in Auckland Park. He holds an MSc in International Construction Management from the University of Bath and a PhD in Construction Management and Engineering from the University of Reading in the UK. Dr Dlamini actively participates in issues that affect the infrastructure sector and regularly attends regional and international conferences and present papers. He is a member of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB). Dr Dlamini is also a Professional Construction Project Manager (PrCPM) and Professional Senior Architectural Technologist (PrSArchT), registered with the SACPCMP and SACAP respectively. He is also accredited as Facilitator, Assessor and Moderator by the Construction Education & Training Authority of South Africa (CETA). His research interests encompass infrastructure development, construction economics and energy efficiency in infrastructure development.

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### **Nthatsi Khatleli**

He is a lecturer at WITS University. His expertise is in Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), Mega Projects, public consultation for construction projects and sustainability and resilience in the building construction sector. He studied B.Sc. Quantity Surveying at the University of Salford in the United Kingdom. After completing his studies, he worked in the industry where he ended up being a Chief Quantity Surveyor for a government agency managing an entire building construction portfolio for Lesotho Government. He continued his studies with an M.Sc. degree in Property Studies at University of Cape Town, where he also pursued a PhD degree concentrating on Public Private Partnerships in the Construction Sector in South Africa. He further spent two year at the University of the Witwatersrand as a postdoctoral fellow. His publications in the form of academic journals, conference papers and book chapters deal with PPPs and transformation, mega projects management in South Africa and public consultation in transformational economies and the building construction sustainability in developing countries.

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Rolien is an associate lecturer at WITS University. Her expertise is in Quantity Surveying. She studied for a B.Sc. Quantity Surveying, a B.Sc. Honors and an M.Sc. Quantity Surveying at the University of the Free State. She worked for four year as a consultant Quantity Surveyor on retail projects. She is currently busy with her PhD degree in Quantity Surveying at WITS University. Her research interest is financial communication in QS practice.

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### **Samuel Laryea**

Dr Samuel Laryea is an Associate Professor in the School of Construction Economics and Management. He holds a PhD in Construction Management from the University of Reading in UK and a Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice also from University of Reading. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Chairman of the West Africa Built Environment Research (WABER) Conference, and Editor of the African Journal of Built Environment Research. His professional affiliations and qualifications include MRICS, MCIOB, MSCLA and Pr.CPM. His research is in the areas of construction procurement, construction law and contract management, project risk management, and commercial relationships in construction contracts. He has authored more than 50 publications and attracted funding in excess of R2 million for various research activities. His research has been published in major international journals such as Construction Management and Economics, ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering and Management, Proceedings of the ICE (Management, Procurement and Law) and Automation in Construction. He enjoys doing research and is a rated researcher by the National Research Foundation of South Africa.

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Josephine is an associate lecturer at WITS University. Her expertise is in the theory and practice of quantity surveying. She earned a BSc. in Quantity Surveying from WITS University and an MSc. in Quantity Surveying from University of Pretoria in South Africa. She is currently a PhD Candidate at WITS University. Her doctoral research is focused on the socio-technical changes in the quantity surveying profession. She holds three certificates in arbitration. Some of her work that has been presented at South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession Conference and Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Conference includes Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and the quantity surveying profession. Her work on PPPs was also published in the South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences.

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Lungie is an associate lecturer at WITS University. Her expertise is in Quantity Surveying and Construction Project Management. She earned her BSc. QS from WITS University in South Africa and MSc. CPM from Greenwich University in the UK. She is currently doing her PhD with WITS University, specialising in Risk Management and Green Buildings. She has also completed a number of short courses within the built environment as well as a Thought Leadership course from the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute. Over the years, she has worked as a Junior Quantity Surveyor, Construction Project Manager and a Government Official. She has a unique blend of experience from both the public and private

sector, as most of the projects undertaken were from the public sector. All these responsibilities required her uncompromising attention to planning and implementation of complex projects that involve multi-disciplinary teams and diverse stakeholders. Her publications include Project Implementation Problems Faced by Project Managers in the South African Construction Industry, CIDB Post-Grad Conference 2005, p198–207.

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He is a Senior lecturer and Programme Coordinator for Research Degrees in the School of CEM at WITS University. His expertise is in architecture, building science, construction project management and built environment sustainability. He read for a BSc. Honours Architecture and MSc. Architecture from University of Nigeria. Then he proceeded with a certificate in Project Management and a PhD Construction Management from Nelson Mandela University South Africa, and a certificate in Building Performance Analysis from Autodesk Incorporated USA. His doctoral research focused on innovation and technology transfer with specific focus on digital technologies and automation. His research focuses on interdisciplinary and comparative studies set within the project management and built environment contexts. Specific themes include project management, project management education, sustainability, facility management, digital technologies and innovation transfer, and population and health studies. He is a registered Construction Manager (Pr.CM) in South Africa (SA), Professional Member of the International Facilities Management Association (IFMA), and Incorporate Member of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB). He has been involved in consultancies with The Research Division of the Gauteng Province of South Africa Infrastructure Development Department, WITS Enterprise in connection with SASOL, and Council on Higher Education of The Kingdom of Lesotho, and as an

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### **Dave Root**

Professor Dave Root is Professor of Construction Management and the Head of School at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Construction Economics and Management in Johannesburg, South Africa since 2011. Previously he was Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Construction Economics and Management at the University of Cape Town (UCT), which he joined in 2003. He originally trained as a Chartered Building Surveyor working in both private practice and client organisations in the UK before entering academia. Professor Root graduated in Building Surveying from Salford University and gained his Masters and PhD degrees in Construction Management from the University of Bath. He held a postdoctoral appointment at Loughborough before joining UCT and has published over 90 journal and conference papers over his career. He is a Fellow of the RICS and CIOB and is registered with the SACPCMP as a Construction Project Manager and was recently elected to the Global Leadership Forum for Construction Engineering and Management. His research interests encompass procurement, supply chain management, design management and construction industry development.

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Ehsan is a senior lecturer in the School of Construction Economics and Management at University of the Witwatersrand in the South Africa, where he has been a faculty member since 2017. He earned his BSc in Civil Engineering from the University of Tehran (UT) in Iran, MSc in Project Management from the University of Putra Malaysia (UPM), and a PhD in Project Management from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in the Australia. His research interests lie in the area of project integration ranging from theories to practice. He has collaborated actively with different researchers/research students in several relevant research topics including building information modeling, integrated project delivery, constructability, operability, maintainability, and off-site manufacturing.

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Yewande has a PhD in Estate Management from the University of Lagos as well as MSc. and BSc. degrees from the Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria. She is an associate member of the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers and a registered estate surveyor and valuer, as well as a member of International Facility Management Association (IFMA) and the South African Facilities Management Association (SAFMA). Yewande has consulted on Facilities management for organisations in Nigeria and the UK. She is a Y rated NRF researcher and the programme coordinator for Facilities management in the School. Her research interests cover Facilities Management, Benchmarking, Sustainability and Post Occupancy Evaluation.

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Kola Akinsomi is a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He holds a PhD in Real Estate Finance from the National University of Singapore and his research interests includes real estate portfolio management, real estate capital markets, real estate investment trust (REITS), Emerging Real Estate Markets and Housing Economics. Kola has published articles in journals such as Empirical Economics, Journal of Property Research, Journal of Economics and Finance specifically in Real Estate Finance and Investments. Kola sits on the editorial board of international real estate journals such as the Journal of Real Estate Literature and on the editorial board of three built environment journals. He has won the best paper award at the African real estate society conference in real estate finance and investments in 2017. He is the recipient of the Young Researcher Rating Award by the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, an award conferred to researchers under 40 based on their research impact and potential. Kola is a board member of the African Real Estate Society. In addition, Kola is the first elected Chair of the future leaders of the American Real Estate Society (FLARES) (2020/21). Kola has served on the program committees for the European Real Estate Society and African Real Estate Society conferences.

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Samuel is an Associate Professor of Real Estate with over 17 years' higher education experience in Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and South Africa. He also has over 10 years' experience organising and managing curriculum redesign, quality control for regular degrees and executive courses in real estate in Sweden, the UAE and South Africa. He has done part-time work as an Associate lecturer with KTH Learning Lab in curriculum design, in addition to organising and participating in training courses for university faculty in Sweden and South Africa. He was responsible for redesign and relaunch of the BSc., Postgraduate Diploma and MSc. programs at WITS University. His research interests cover real estate market analysis, real estate education, reward management for the property and facilities sector, and corporate real estate management. His work has been published in international journals such as Journal of Real Estate Literature, Property Management, Compensation and Benefits Review and the International Journal of Strategic Property Management. His qualifications include BA Hons (Economics) from University of Ghana, and MSc (Env Eng & Sus Infr), PhD (Real Estate), MSc (Real Estate & Construction Man) and LicEng (Real Estate) from KTH in Sweden.

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Graeme Jay has a BCom, Postgraduate Diploma (Property Development and Management) and MSc. (Building) from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Business Management (Hons) (Finance and Investment Management) and LLB degree from UNISA. Graeme specialises in the area of Property Law and Real Estate Development. His area of research interest include Real Estate Education and Research, Affordable and Low Income Housing and Housing Development, Inner City Development and Re-development and Shopping Centre Development particularly in rural and former black township areas. Graeme has presented at numerous conferences including conferences organised by the European Real Society and American Real Estate Society.

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### **Bekithemba Mpfu**

Dr Mpfu is a member of the SAPOA National Research Committee, an industry analyst with SAREIT, Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute (FCMI) and a Certified Member of the British Institute of Facilities Management (CBIFM). He also holds a PhD in Financial Economics (Econometrics) from University of St Andrews, as well as a Real Estate Professional Diploma, BSc. (Hon), MBA (Finance), and an MSc. in

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**Dr Mpofo's research interests are:**

- **Econometrics:** Time series analysis, structural breaks, non-parametric models, forecasting, volatility, long memory, emerging markets, systematic reviews (meta-analysis and bibliometrics).
- **Real Estate:** Property cycles and forecasting real estate markets, responsible real estate investment, real estate investment trusts, shopping centre developments, real estate lending.

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**Pride Ndlovu**

Pride is an Associate Lecturer at WITS University. She has extensive experience in construction project management and real estate development. She earned a B.Tech in Quantity Surveying at TUT and a BSc. Honors at the University of Pretoria. She further completed her MSc. Building at WITS University and is currently still enrolled at WITS doing her PhD degree. Her doctoral research focuses on knowledge transfer within the real estate private sector in Sub-Saharan Africa. She has presented her work at the American Real Estate Society (ARES) Conference doctoral session in Florida in April 2018. Ms. Ndlovu has extensive experience in practice working for various companies within construction and real estate industries. Her experience in practice

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