

The Wits-CEM Postgraduate Research Conference

3 - 5 APRIL 2024

HYBRID



**Generating ideas and
Capability post Covid:**
research response to the changing world
of the built and human environment.

Hosted by the School of Construction Economics and Management,
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment,
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

www.wits.ac.za/pgr-conference/



CALL FOR PAPERS

So much has been said about the COVID pandemic, its financial and human costs, its impact, and its effects. Also, so much research has been conducted in various fields relating to the impacts of COVID on human life. But most papers were prospective, hypothetical, and suggestive in approach. It has been 3 years since the outbreak, and now it is safe to say that the problem, its impact, and its effect have been sufficiently digested and understood. The 2024 Postgraduate Research Conference, hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Construction Economics and Management, focuses on PG students, and gives current (and recent) graduate researchers a safe and supportive space to share their research findings and experiences. Discussions on how the pandemic has contextually affected not just the built environment, but the human environment as well are welcome. This conference provides a collaborative and supportive space for students at various levels of their research journeys, as well as recent graduates at various levels of their academic citizenship. The conference provides various opportunities for cross-university collaborations, group presentations, academic mentorship, industry exposure, and exposure to grant opportunities.

With the theme of **“Generating ideas and Capability post Covid: research response to the changing world of the built and human environment”**, Wits PGR-Conference 2024 brings together PG researchers, educators, and industry practitioners from South Africa built environment faculties and schools, to share knowledge, collaborate, reflect, and learn current issues and participate in shaping the future of the construction and the built and human environment sectors. **All papers submitted to the Wits CEM PGR-2024 conference will undergo a rigorous double-blind peer review process. Independent referees will be selected from an appointed scientific committee and qualified conference authors/academics. Every accepted paper will have a unique identifier number, indexed in Scopus and with an ISBN.**

Abstracts are invited with the following themes:

Built Environment Education, Research & Industry

- Construction Studies & Pedagogy
- Workforce & Training
- Team dynamics in the built environment.
- Real estate education and innovative research methodologies
- Creating Capacity & Capability
- Changing roles and responsibilities of Built Environment Professionals

Digitalisation, Innovation and Sustainability in the Built Environment

- PropTech and blockchain tech in the built environment
- Computer Aided Systems, BIM, Information modelling and Digital Twin Technology
- Visualizations and Detection
- Digital Economy and Societal Impact of Innovations
- IoT and Web Based Solutions

Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Development

- Affordable Housing/ Social Housing
- Sustainable Real Estate Development
- Circular economy in construction
- Smart Housing/ Green Building Initiatives
- Sustainable Real Estate Financing and Investment

Advanced Technologies & Innovations in Construction

- Automations and Robotics
- Advances in Costing in the built environment
- Construction digitalization
- Building Adaptations and Retrofits
- Carbon Neutral Building Initiatives
- Sustainable Building Construction Materials / Zero Carbon
- Climate Change / Hazards / Pandemics
- Innovation Procurement and Delivery

Wellbeing within the Built Environment

- Facilities management/ Urban Facilities Management
- Corporate Real Estate Management
- Health and Safety/behavioral changes with the Built and Human Environment
- Indoor environmental quality and management

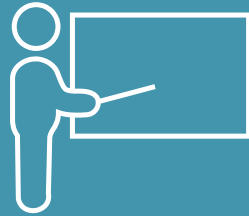
Real Estate Markets

- Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)
- Cross-border Investments
- Urban regeneration and renewal
- Real estate market research
- Decision-making, feasibility studies,
- Real estate valuation and Commercial real estate
- 4IR and large data in the built environment.

Built Environment Statutory Issues

- Contracts and Property Law
- Corporate social responsibility
- Land Administration and management
- Macroeconomic policy and Housing Developments
- Government policies and land related matters
- Fiscal policies and the built environment
- Evidence-Based Policy Analysis





SPEAKERS

Guest of Honour: Prof. Charles Egbu

Vice-Chancellor Leeds Trinity University, Leeds England



Prof. Egbu is the vice chancellor of Leeds Trinity University, United Kingdom, becoming the first black person in such a role in any UK university. Professor Egbu's research interests focus on project management, construction management and sustainable development; subjects about which he has written 12 books and contributed to more than 350 publications in various international journals and conferences. He has supervised over 25 PhD students and examined over 100 PhD candidates worldwide. In addition, he has acted as an external examiner to many undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in universities all over the world.

Keynote speakers

Prof. Abimbola Windapo

Construction Economics & Management, University of Cape Town



Prof. Abimbola Windapo is a Professor at the Dept of Construction Economics & Management, University of Cape Town, with more than 28 years of experience in the construction field. She is a Registered Construction Project Manager with the SA Council for the Project & Construction Management Profession (SACPCMP) and Registered Builder with CORBON. She is the first female Professor of Construction Economics in Africa. Her research focus is around construction industry development, business & project management from a performance & practice perspective.

Prof. Albert Saiz

Professor of Urban Economics and Real Estate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Professor Albert Saiz is the Daniel Rose Associate Professor of Urban Economics and Real Estate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and formerly Director of the MIT Center for Real Estate (2014–2018). Professor Saiz serves as the Director of MIT's Urban Economics Lab, which conducts research on real estate economics, urban economics, housing markets, local public finance, zoning regulations, global real estate, and demographic trends affecting urban and real estate development worldwide. He teaches in both the MIT Urban Planning and Real Estate programs. Saiz currently serves as a Visiting Scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Analysis of Labor (IZA – Bonn, Germany); a Board Member at the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, and as a Research Advisor for Buildzoom.com. He is also an Editor of the Journal of Housing Economics.



Prof. Samuel Laryea

University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Professor Samuel Laryea is the Head of the School of Construction Economics and Management at the University of the Witwatersrand. A National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher in South Africa who has contributed more than 70 publications to the construction management literature and serve on the editorial boards of international journals in my field. He is the chairperson of various accreditation panels; chairman of the West Africa Built Environment Research (WABER) Conference; and Editor of the African Journal of Built Environment Research.



Prof. Rianne Appel-Meulenbroek

Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands

Rianne Appel is an Associate Professor in corporate real estate (CRE) and workplaces at the Department of the Built Environment of Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), in the Netherlands. In her research, she approaches CRE as an important strategic resource for (knowledge) organizations. She focuses on 2 lines of research: 1) how the different workplaces in the current hybrid workspace should be managed strategically (corporate offices, co-working offices, and home environments) and 2) how location, building and workspace design choices for these different hybrid work environment types add value to driving forces of their users (such as employee health and productivity, innovativeness of the organization, and flexibility). In order to carry out her scientific research, she relies on innovative methods of studying and measuring buildings and their usage. These include choice experiments, laddering interviews, experience sampling surveys, and sensor-based measurements.





IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission: 20 November 2023. Email to Conference.CEM@wits.ac.za

Notification of Abstract Acceptance: 1 December 2023

Paper Submission: 12 January 2023

Paper Acceptance Notification: 26 January 2024

Final Paper Submission: 16 February 2024

Conference Dates: 3 – 5 April 2024

International attendees will be issued with invitation letters upon abstract acceptance and payment for them to facilitate visa application and travel plans.

For a glimpse into our prestigious university, [watch this video](#). #WitsForGood

For everything you need to know to travel in South Africa (holidays or business travel), please visit: www.southafrica.net/za/en/



CONFERENCE FEES

Early bird: before 30 November 2023

ZAR (South African Rands) R2000: Students

ZAR (South African Rands) R3000: Academics and professionals

International Participants - before 30th November 2023

\$120: Students

\$200: Academics and Professionals

Normal Registration: from 30 November 2023

ZAR (South African Rands) R2500: Students

ZAR (South African Rands) R4000: Academics and professionals

International Participants - from 30th November 2023

\$150: Students

\$250: Academics and Professionals

Abstract submissions: Conference.CEM@wits.ac.za

Conference Format - Hybrid

Publication

- DHET ready conference proceedings
- Conference proceedings would be Scopus indexed; by Taylor and Francis
- Selected best papers will be published in a DHET accredited special issue.

For more information and sponsorship, contact Dr Pride Ndlovu: pride.ndlovu@wits.ac.za

Programme committee

Associate Prof Kola Ijasan – Conference Chair
Professor Samuel Laryea
Associate Professor Ehsan Saghatforoush
Dr Prisca Simbanegavi
Dr Pride Ndlovu
Dr Rolien Terblanch
Dr Lungi Maseko
Associate Prof Bankole Awuzie
Dr Koech Cheruiyot
Dr Stanley Okangba
Mr Faranani Gethe
Dr Lynda Mbadugha
Prof. David Root
Dr Amal Abuzeinab De Montfort University, Leicester
Dr Tubosun Oladokun - University of Glasgow
Dr Lovelin Obi Northumbria University, UK
Dr Uzor Onyia UNN Nigeria
Prof Babatunde Odusami - Widener University, Pennsylvania



Scientific committee

Prof. Kathy Michell - University of Cape Town, South Africa
Dr Julius Akotia - University of East London, United Kingdom
Dr Alireza Moghayedi University of West of England, Bristol United Kingdom
Prof. Abdul-Majeed Mahamadu - University College London, United Kingdom
Prof Chika Udeaja- London South Bank University, London, United Kingdom
Prof. Innocent Musonda- University of Johannesburg South Africa
Prof. Che khairil Che Ibrahim- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
Dr Sheila Belayutham- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
Dr Aminu Abdullahi -Kano State University, Wudil, Nigeria
Dr Ayodeji Oke - The Federal University of Technology Akure Nigeria
Dr Josephine Llale - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Dr Lindelani Matshidze - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Dr Pelumi Akinbogun - The Federal University of Technology Akure Nigeria
Dr Fred Simpeh- University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development, Ghana
Dr Temitope Omotayo - Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, United Kingdom
Prof. Saheed Ajayi - Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, United Kingdom
Dr Tarila Zuofa - University of Wisconsin-Parkside USA
Prof. Justus Agumba - Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa
Prof. Kahilu Kajimo-Shakantu - University of the Free State South Africa
Prof. C. O. Aigbavboa - University of Johannesburg South Africa
Prof. D. Thwala - University of South Africa UNISA South Africa
Dr Stephen Ramabodu - University of Johannesburg South Africa
Prof. M. O. Ajibola - Covenant University, Nigeria
Associate Professor Yewande Adewunmi - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Associate Professor Kola Akinsomi - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Prof. C Iroham - Covenant University, Nigeria
Dr O. C. Oloke - Covenant University, Nigeria
Prof. John Smallwood - Nelson Mandela University South Africa
Prof. Brink Botha - Nelson Mandela University South Africa
Prof. Chioma Okoro - College of Business and Economics, University of Johannesburg South Africa
Prof. Fidelis Emuze - Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein, Free State South Africa
Prof. Alfred Ngowi - Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein, Free State South Africa
Prof. Victor Akujuru - Rivers State University, Nigeria

Dr Uzor Onyia - University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
 Dr Temidayo Osunsanmi - Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, UK.
 Dr Greg Watts - University of Salford, Salford, UK
 Dr Adeyemi Akintola - Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, England United Kingdom
 Dr Peter Agbaxode Ho - Technical University, Ghana
 Dr Calistus Ayegba - Federal University of Technology Minna, Nigeria
 Dr Lovelin Obi - Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK.
 Dr Mathew Ikuabe - University of Johannesburg South Africa
 Dr Samuel Adeyemi - University of Johannesburg South Africa
 Dr Christopher Amoah - University of the Free State South Africa
 Dr Femi Aka - Federal University of Technology Minna Nigeria
 Prof James Rotimi - Massey University- Massey University, New Zealand
 Prof. Many Mooya - University of Cape Town South Africa
 Prof Benita Zulch - University of Pretoria South Africa
 Prof Chris Cleote -University of Pretoria South Africa
 Prof Kahilu Kajimo-Shakantu - University of the Free State South Africa
 Dr Koech Cheruiyot - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Dr Sitsabo Dlamini- University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Mr Graeme Jay - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Associate Professor Nthatsi Khatleli - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Dr Thabelo Ramantswana - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Associate Professor Ehsan Saghatforoush - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Dr Tumellano Sebehela - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Prof Monty Sustrina - Massey University New Zealand
 Professor Nnamdi Elleh - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Dr Brian Boshoff - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Professor Marie Huchzermeyer - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Professor Alison Todes - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Doctor Imuentinyan Aivinheno - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Associate Professor Anne Fitchett - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Professor Adesola Ilemobade - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Dr Wale Olanrewaju - Federal University of Technology Akure Nigeria
 Associate Professor Jean-Mare Mwenge Kahinda - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Professor Akpofure Taigbenu - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 Associate Professor Robert Reid - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa



2024 Wits-CEM Postgraduate Research PGR Conference

3 - 5 April 2024

Information

- All abstracts will be adjudicated for inclusion in either the oral or poster presentation formats.
- Abstracts are **200 - 250 words maximum** and should follow the format provided below. Please use 12 point Arial or Times New Roman font.
- The organizing committee reserves the right to edit abstracts for clarity or correctness of English, but will consult the author if any significant changes are needed.
- The abstract deadline is 20 October 2023. There is no fee for submission of an abstract, but if you do not register and pay the outstanding registration fee in full by the deadline of December 8th, the abstract will not appear in the programme.
- If you need to receive a formal acceptance of your abstract in order to be funded to come to the conference, please write this in your e-mail when you submit your abstract and you will receive a prompt reply.

Abstracts can be submitted as an **email attachment to the organizing committee:**

Conference.CEM@wits.ac.za,

or via the submission link by 20 October, 2023 in Word or PDF format.

Student information (students only)

Full Names: _____

Institution/affiliation: _____

Email: _____

Program: ☐ Taught MSc/MBA ☐ PhD ☐ MPhil/ MRes ☐ D.Phil./ DBA

Year: ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th ☐ 5th Other: _____

Supervisor(s): _____

Request: ☐ Oral ☐ Poster

At what stage is the research you are submitting: ie published, completed, preliminary/pilot data etc

Abstract Guide

Paper Title

Author name¹, Author name², (student is the presenter and name is bolded and underlined)

¹*Author's affiliation and full address: 12 point type, centered, italicized*

²*Author's affiliation and full address: 12 point type, centered, italicized*

Presenter's e-mail address: 12 point type, centered, italicized

Purpose: The Purpose section must include a concise description of the background or rationale for the study, with the specific purposes, questions addressed, and/or hypotheses tested. Lengthy descriptions of rationale are not necessary or desirable.

Method: The Method section must describe the study design (qualitative, quantitative, multi and/or mixed methods) and general procedures including characteristics and numbers of participants and data collection methods. If the study does not involve primary data collection, information should be provided on the methods used to summarise previously reported data (e.g., narrative or systematic review, meta-analysis).

Results: The Results section should summarize findings as they apply directly to the stated purposes of the article. If the research is ongoing and no results are available at the time of submission, please include projected results.

Research limitations/implications (if applicable): If research is reported on in the paper this section must be completed and should include suggestions for future research and any identified limitations in the research process.

Conclusions: The Conclusions section must state specifically the extent to which the stated purposes of the article have been met or, if the study is ongoing, the potential implications (theoretical and/or clinical) of the findings.

Keywords: Maximum 5 keywords separated by commas and finishing with a full stop e.g., Competition, Competitiveness, Education and Training. Font 10).

