

The entire slide is framed by a border consisting of alternating red and blue diagonal stripes.

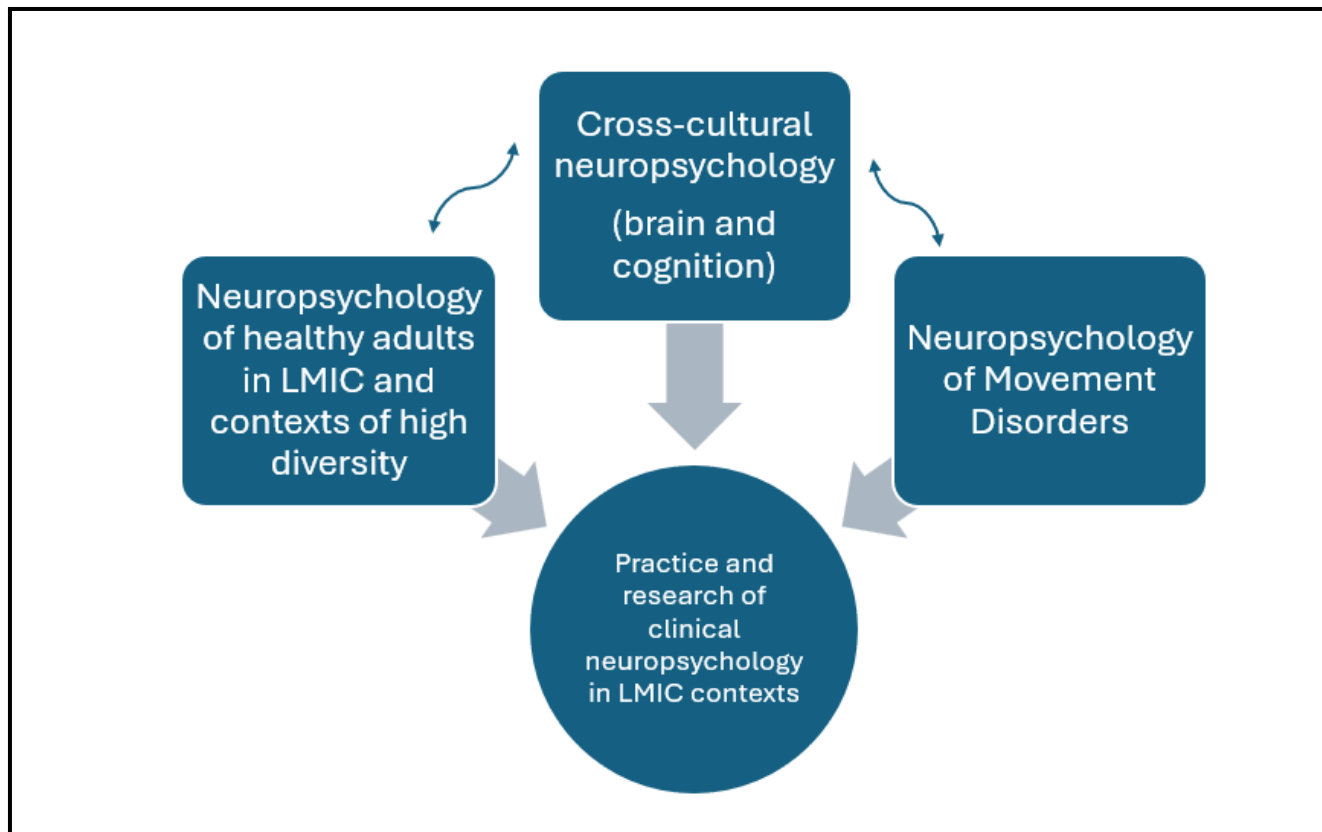
MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Fellows 2026

POSTCARD

Insert your research topic/area here



culturally informed neuropsychology



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Aline Ferreira-Correia

Psychology Department/ SHCD

Humanities

Wits

AI's impact on cognition/ Cognitive models in AI

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

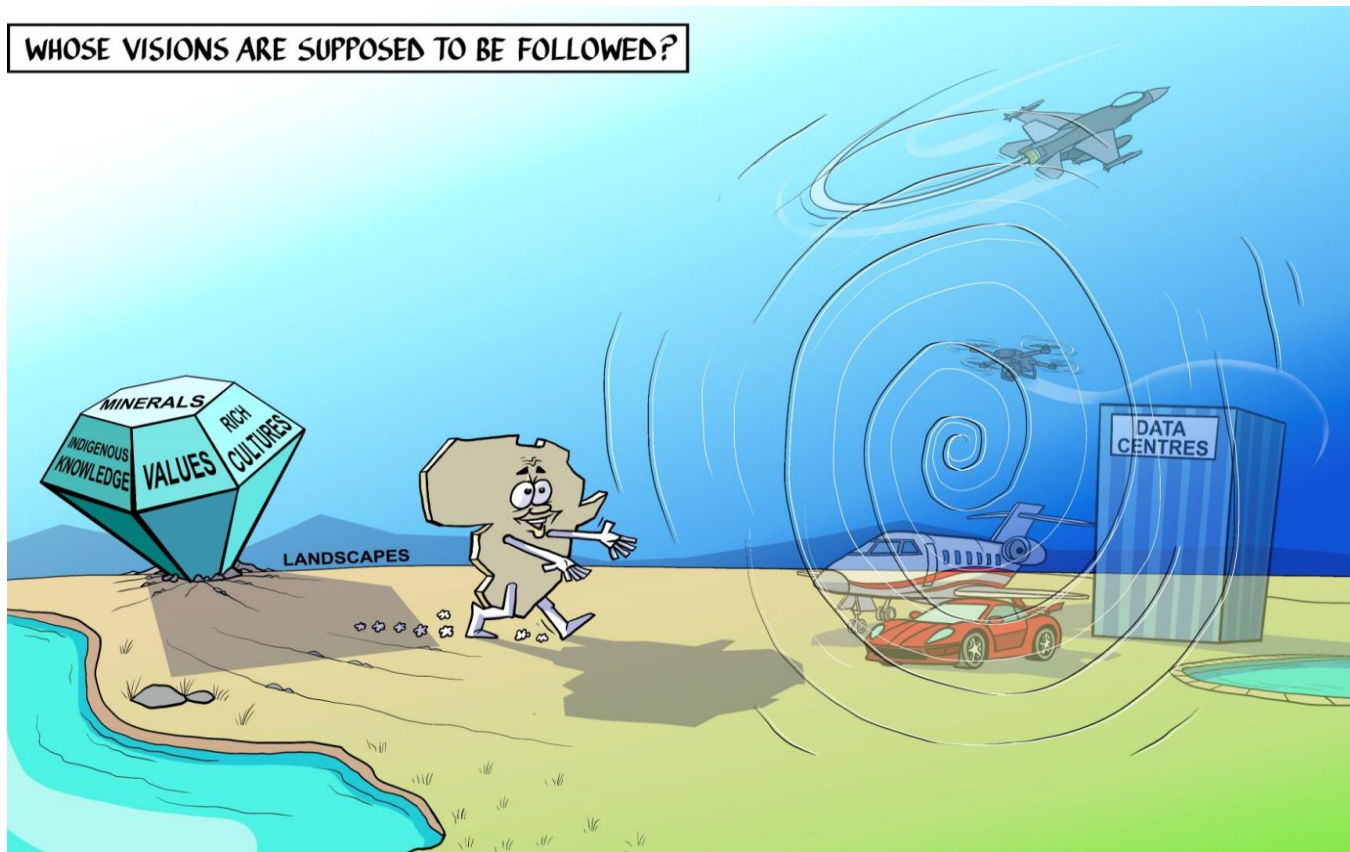
Human cognition/neuropsychology

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Reimagining Sociotechnical Systems of AI & HTI in the Africa and the Global Majority

WHOSE VISIONS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FOLLOWED?



*Collective AI visions demand
shared imaginations*



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Angella Ndaka

Southern Centre for Inequality Studies-SCIS

Commerce, Law and Management

University of Witswatersrand

Sociotechnical Systems of AI & HTI

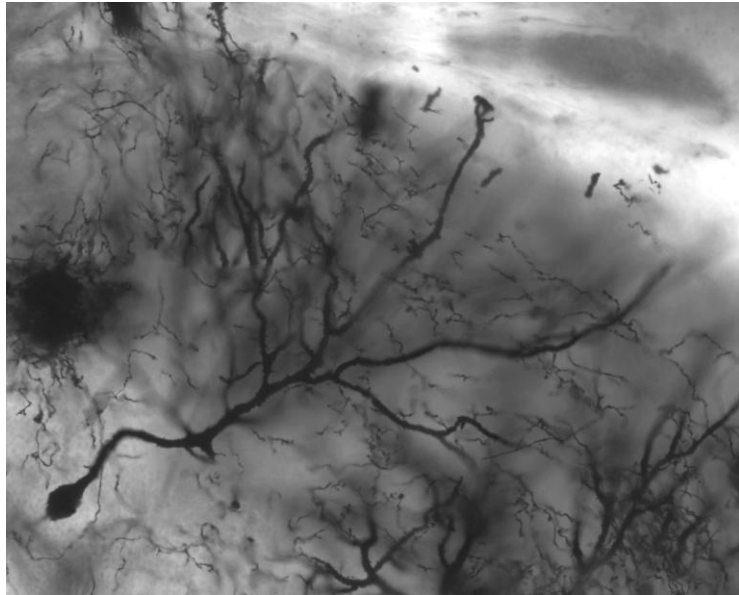
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

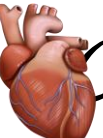
Human Intelligence in digital age

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Neuronal Morphology and Cognitive Function



I  *CELLS!*



Ayanda Ngwenya

Department of Anatomical Sciences

Health Science

Wits University

Human-AI interaction and cognitive resilience

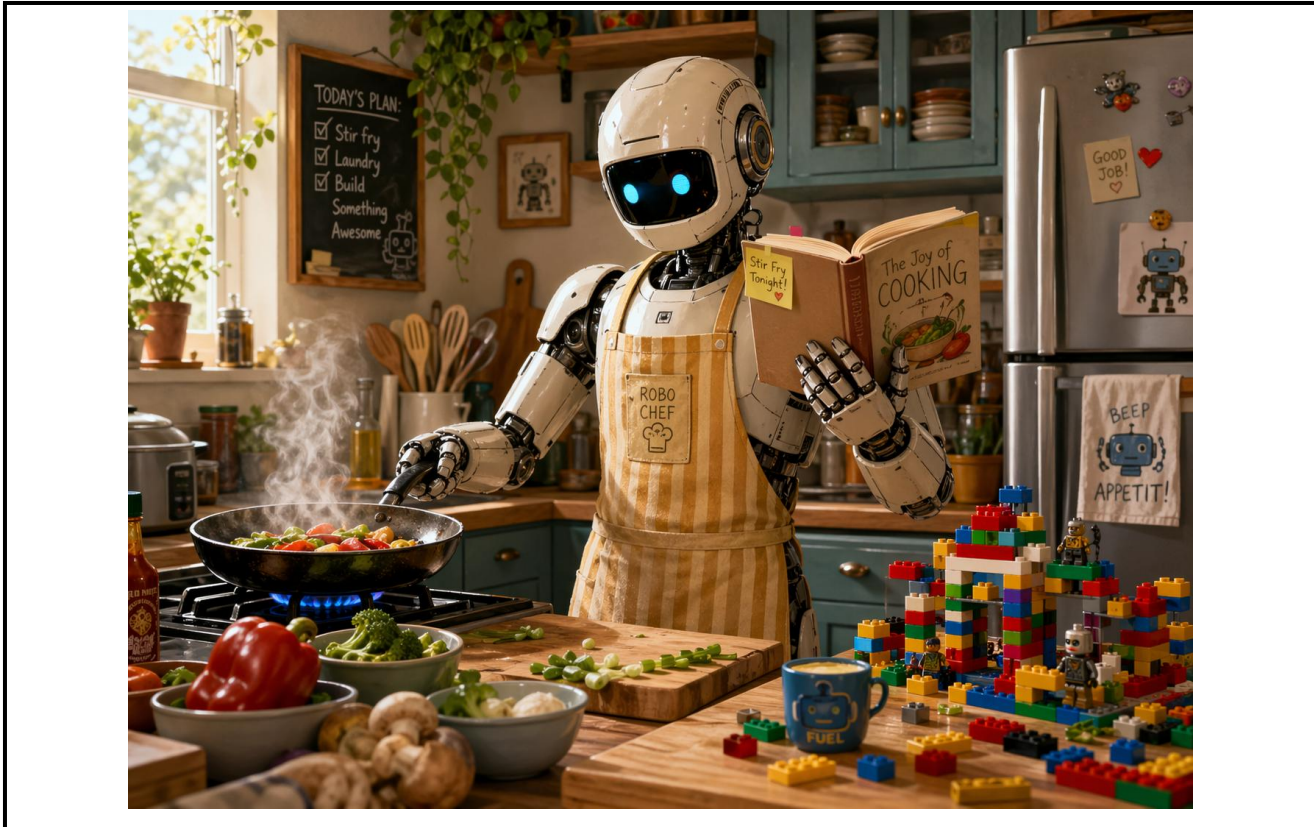
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Synaptic plasticity and cognitive flexibility

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Autonomous decision making under uncertainty



*Always do the coolest things you can,
with the coolest people you can find!*



Benjamin Rosman

Director, MIND

DVC – Research & Innovation

Wits University

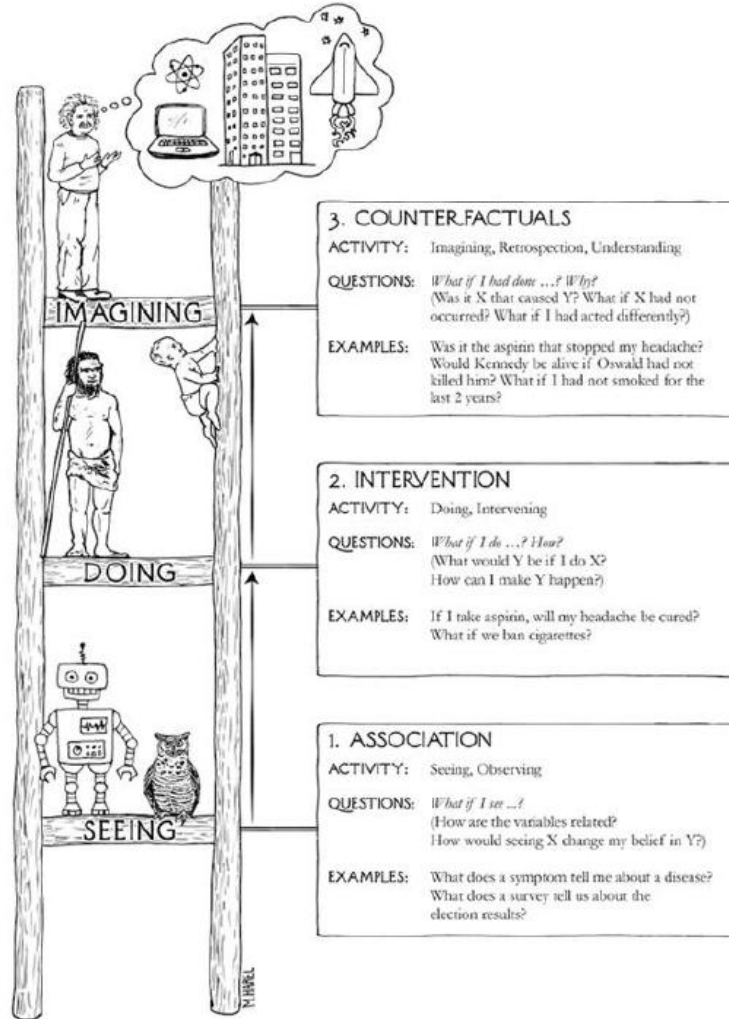
Reinforcement learning, robotics

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Consciousness

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD



Find the Cause



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Dr. Bevan I. Smith

School of Mechanical, Industrial and
Aeronautical Engineering

Engineering and the Built Environment

Wits University

Causal Machine Learning

Causality

POSTCARD

Artificial Intelligence for Games, with a focus on learning-driven agents, procedural generation, and player-adaptive systems.



“Where Intelligence Emerges Through Play”



Branden Ingram

CSAM

Science

WITS

AI for games

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

How can humans learn a wide range of skills so quickly

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Reptile cognition



From perception to performance



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Brendon Billings

Senior lecturer, School of BiomedSci

Health Sciences Faculty

Wits University

Education, comparative neuroscience

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Cognition

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD



*"AI will probably take over the world...
but at least the healthcare will be good"*



Bruce Bassett

MIND and CSAM

Science

Wits

Medical AI / Foundations of AI /
AI co-scientists

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Consciousness

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Evolutionary Intelligence



Curious enough to get into trouble!



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Christine Steininger

MIND Institute

DVC – Research & Innovation

University of the Witwatersrand

Constraint-Led Intelligence (CLI)

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Human Evolution, Exosomatic
Cognition, Adaptation

My area of interest in Natural
Intelligence

POSTCARD



Exploring the humanity of AI



Christo Doherty

WIC/WSOA

Humanities

Wits U

AI and Creative Arts

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Animal Cunning

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

African ethics of AI: from design to deployment



Another world is possible



MIND
Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Cornelius Ewuoso

Bioethics/Clinical Medicine

Health Sciences

University of Witwatersrand

AI Ethics

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

AI Mind emulates the Human Mind



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Neural Discovery Institute

David Rose

School of Statistics and
Actuarial Science (SSAS)

Faculty of Science

University of the Witwatersrand

Statistical Elements of ML and DL

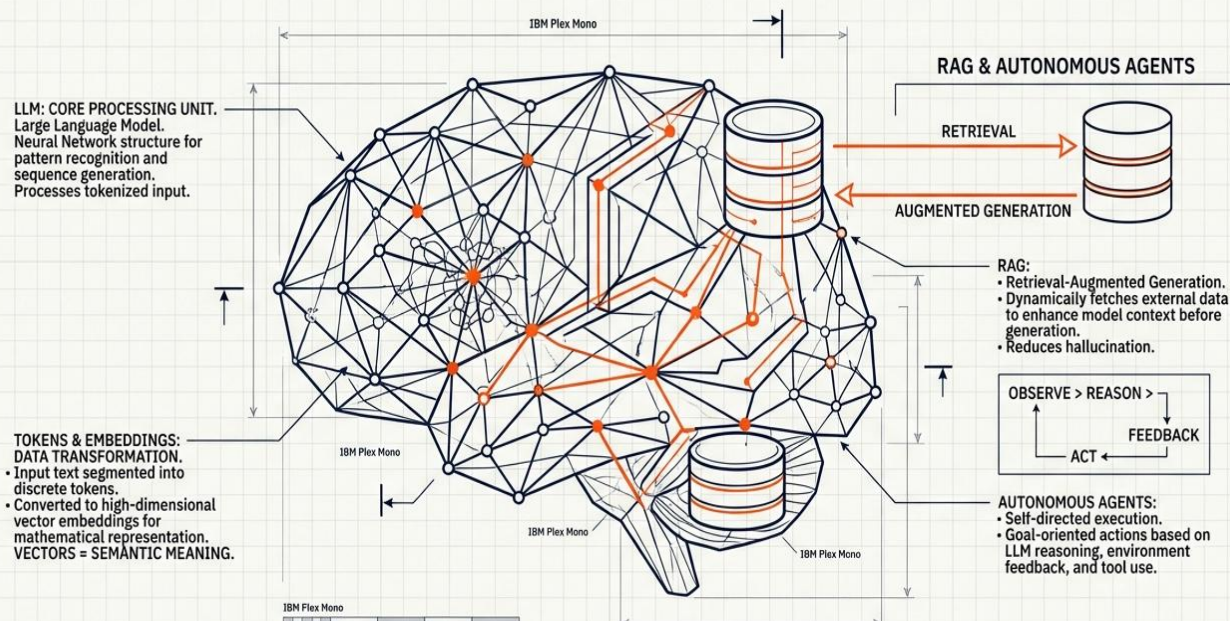
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

AI models versus brain function

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

The Architecture of an AI Mind

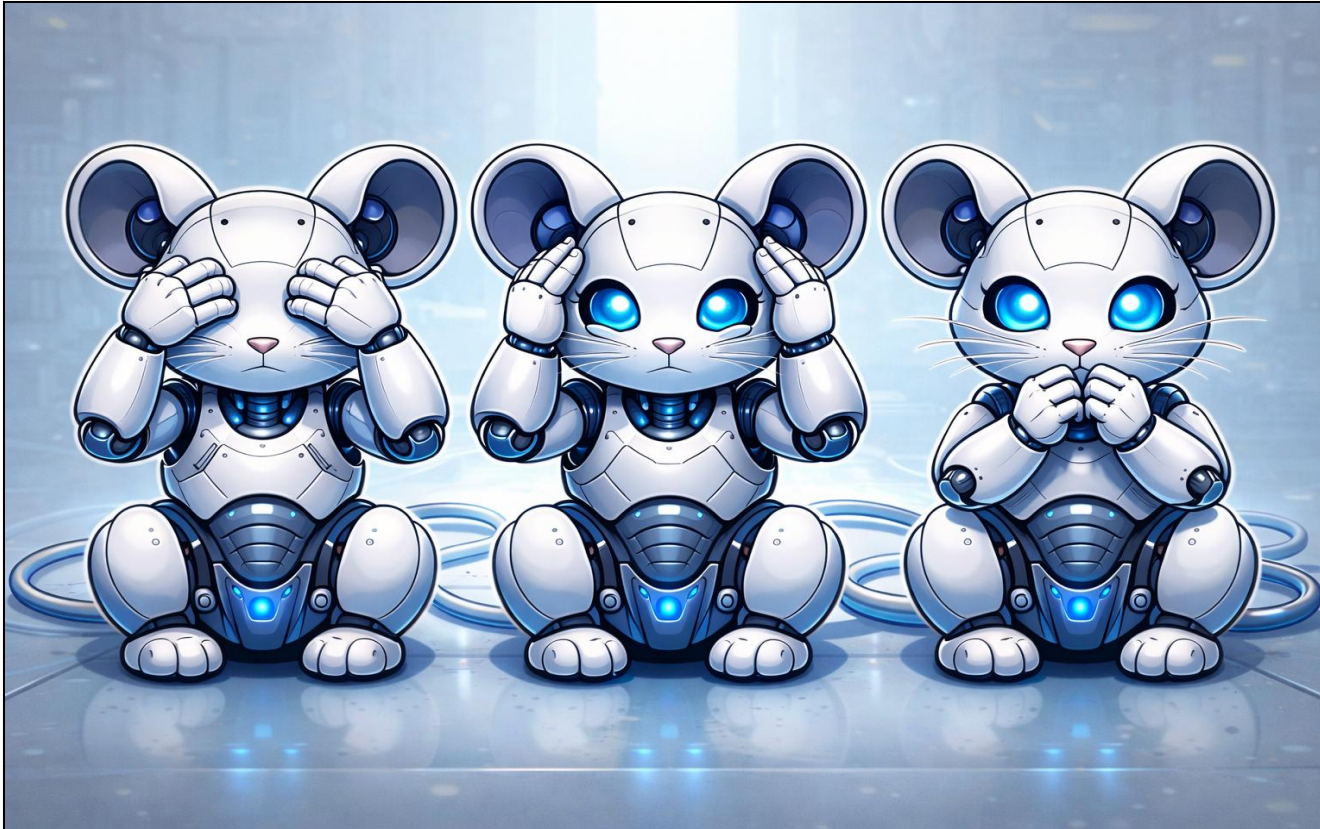
System Architecture & Core Fundamentals: LLMs, Tokens, Embeddings, RAG, and Autonomous Agents.



Let's use our minds to map the mind

POSTCARD

Cognition, Adaption & Learning



✨ *Live, Laugh, Love* ✨



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Devon Jarvis

CAandL Lab, School of Computer
Science and Applied Mathematics

Science

Wits

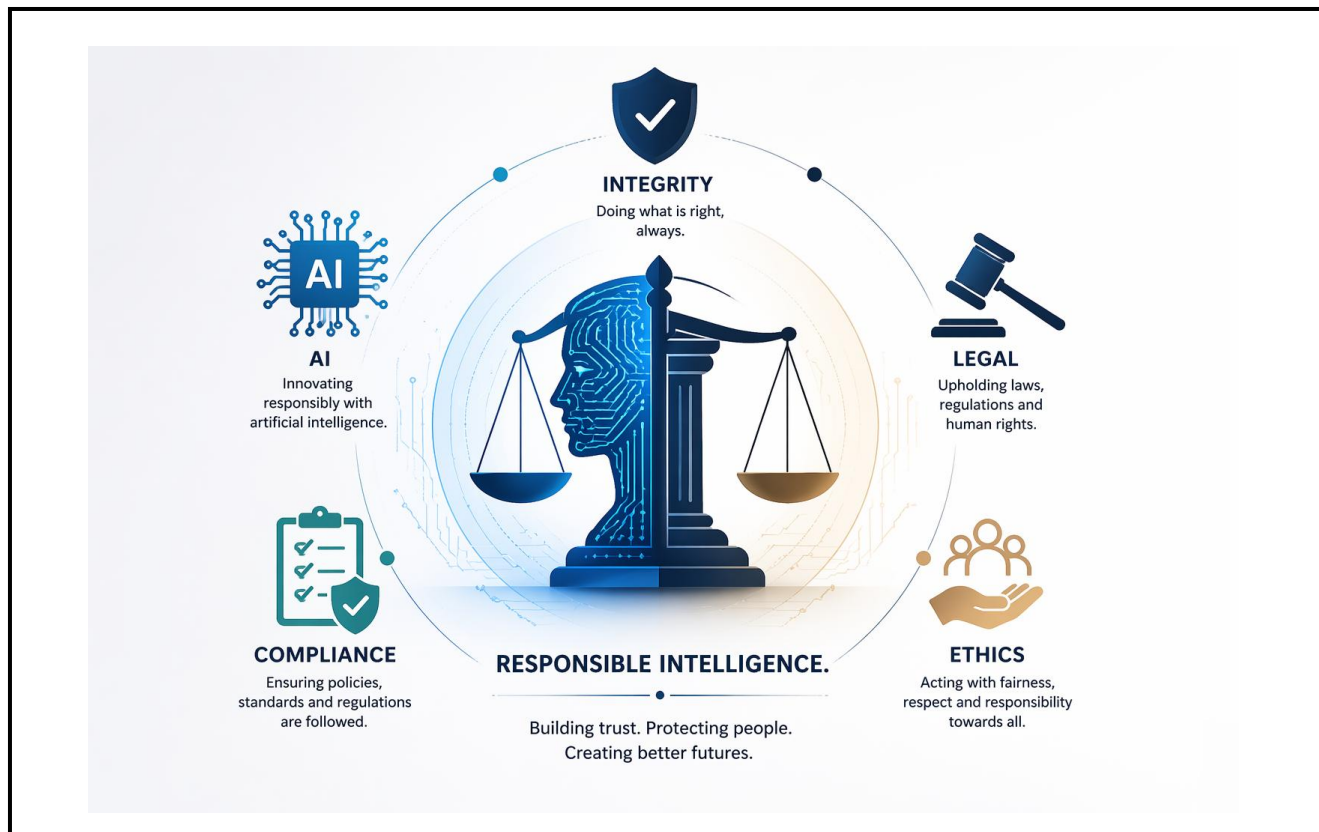
Language Cognition, Artificial Collective
Intelligence, Multi-sensory Integration

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Legal, Compliance, Ethics and Integrity



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Eleni Flack-Davison

Title Name Surname

DVC: R&I

Unit/Centre/Dept/School

University Research Office

Faculty

Wits University

Institution

Legal, Compliance, Ethics and Integrity

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

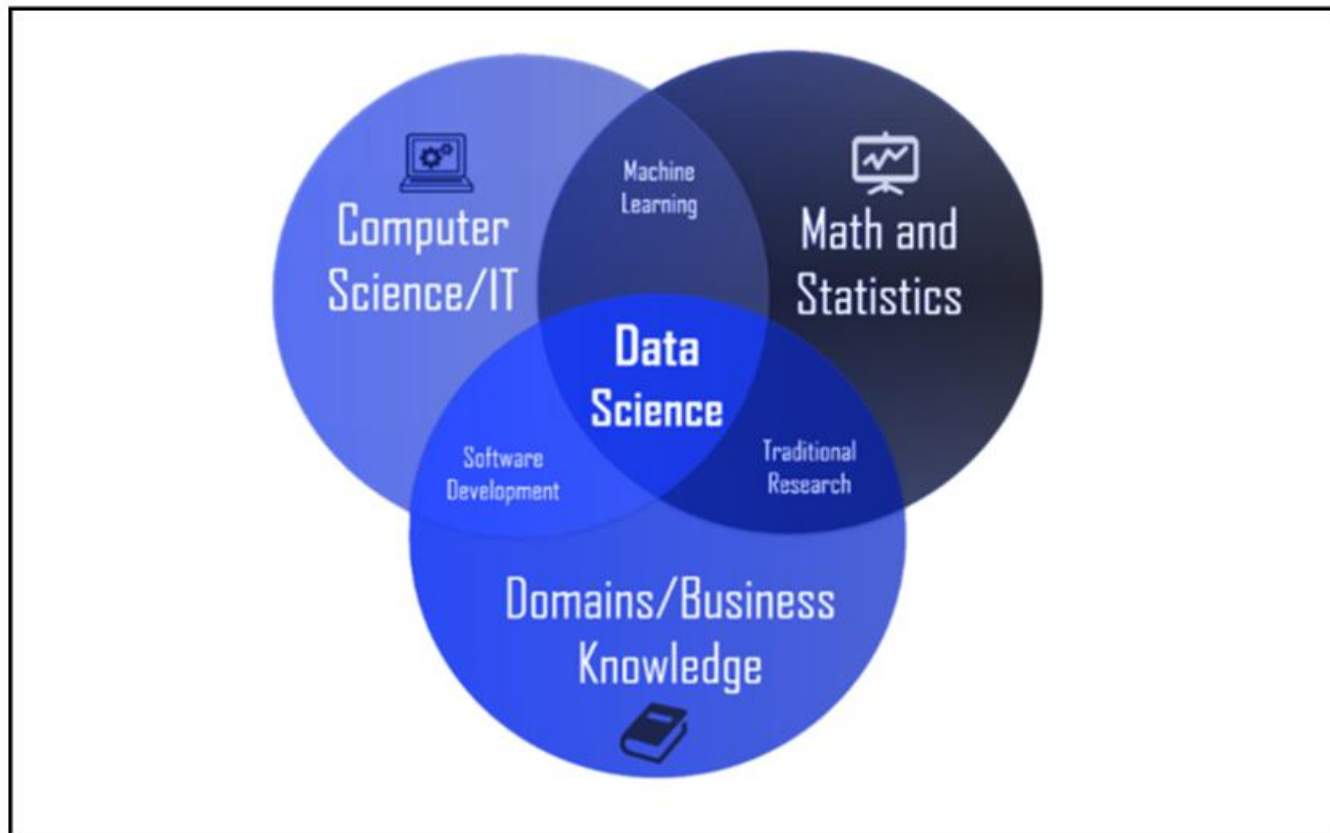
Natural vs Artificial Intelligence

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

"AI will not define us, integrity will!"

POSTCARD

Statistical Machine Learning: With Applications in Business, Engineering, and Finance



All models are wrong, but some are useful



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Farai Mlambo

Wits Business School

Commerce Law and Management

Wits University

Statistical Machine Learning

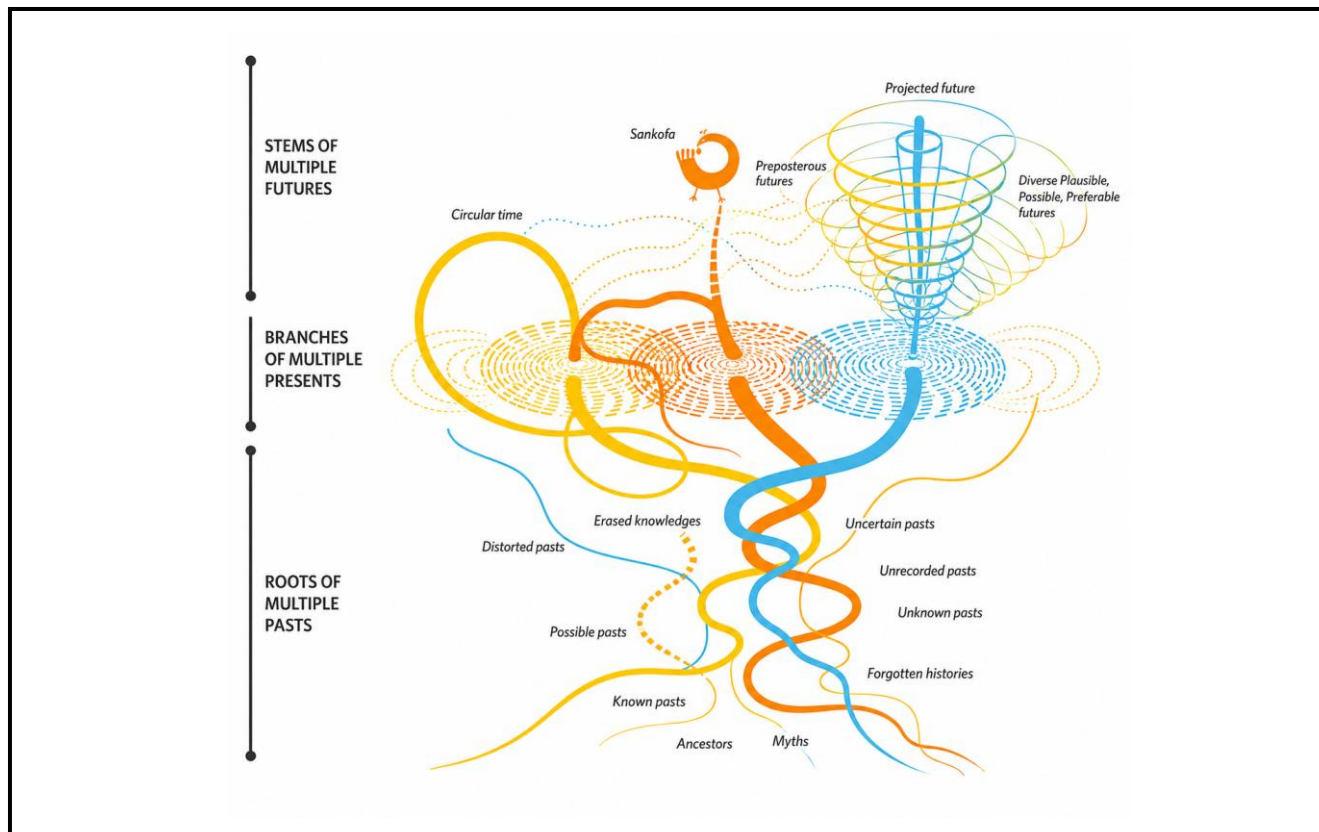
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Probabilistic Thinking

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Digital and Anticipatory Governance (Intersections between People, Place, Time and Technological Change)



So so so so sorry I'm late!



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Prof Geci Karuri-Sebina

Title Name Surname

Southern Centre for Inequality Studies

Unit/Centre/Dept/School

CLM

Faculty

Wits University

Institution

Digital governance; STS

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Human-Computer Interaction

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Compositional Generalisation from First Principles



Let's create general intelligence!



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Geraud Nangue Tasse

Computer Science

Science

University of the Witwatersrand

Reinforcement Learning

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Cognitive science

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Learning and Perception with Data & Compute Efficiency



*Keep the wonder of beginners.
Amplified by others!*



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Hairong Bau

Computer Science and
Applied Mathematics

Science

University of the Witwatersrand

Application of AI

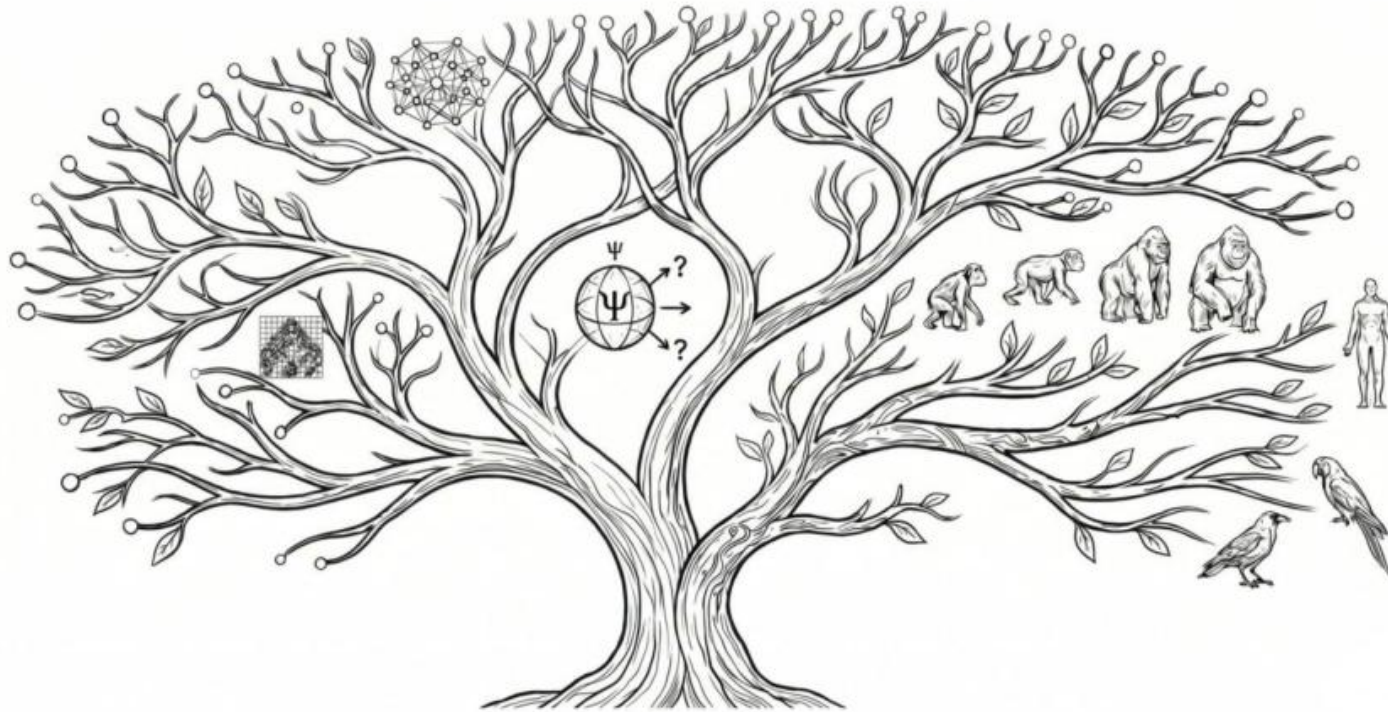
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Learning, perception, and reasoning

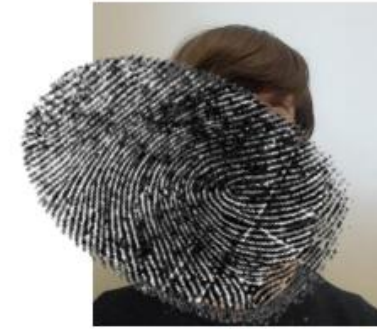
My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Logical limits of intelligent agency



What else could there be around here?



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Dr Helen Robertson

Title Name Surname

Computer Science and Applied Mathematics

Unit/Centre/Dept/School

Science

Faculty

University of the Witwatersrand

Institution

Logically possible forms of artificial intelligence

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

The role of evolution in natural intelligence

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Digital Humanities / International Politics of AI



other maps, other minds



Iginio Gagliardone

SA-UK Bilateral SARChI Chair
in Digital Humanities

Faculty of the Humanities

Wits

Computational Social Science +
Geopolitics of AI

Collective deliberation and democratic
reasoning

POSTCARD

The evolution of sleep



Sleepless in the Savannah!



Illke Malungo

Department of Anatomical Sciences

Faculty of Health Sciences

Wits University

Adaptive systems

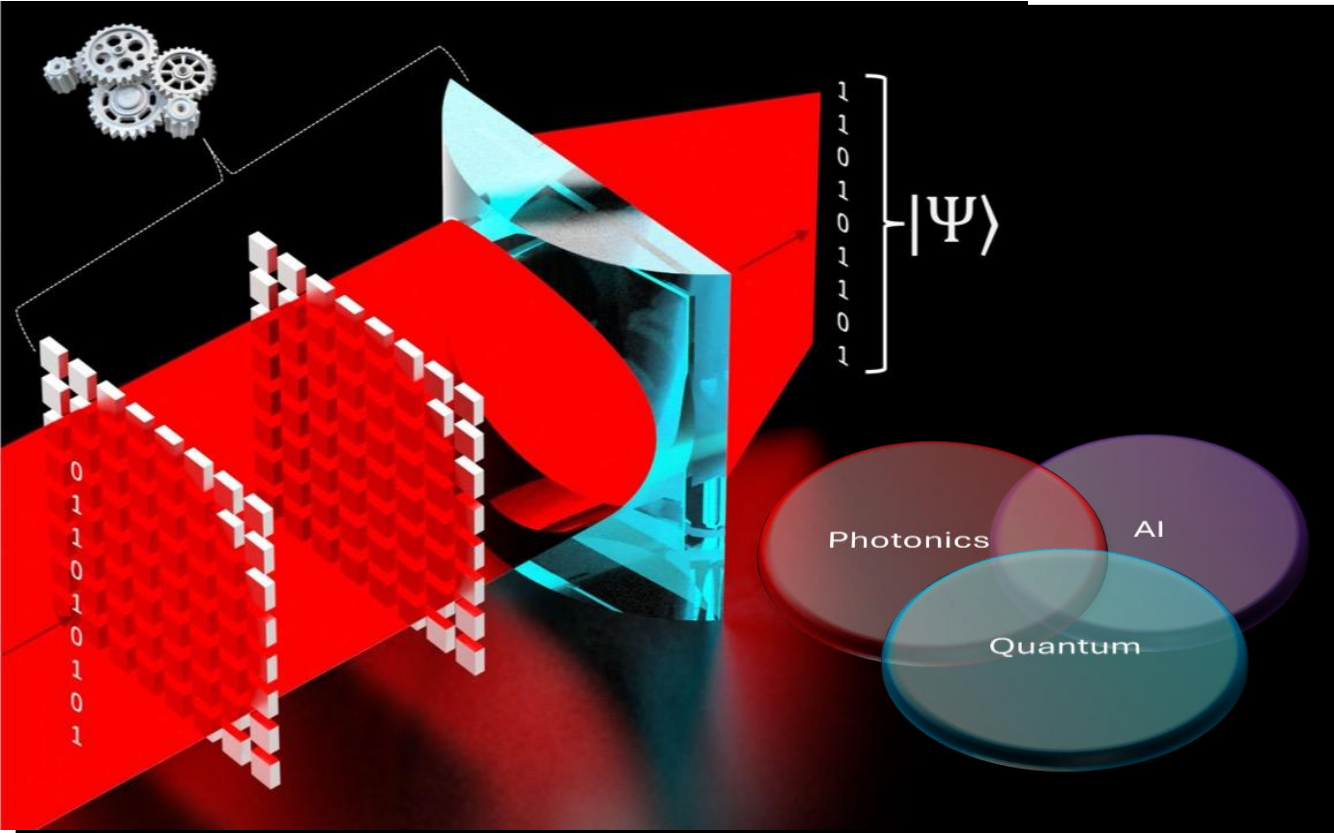
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Neuroethology – the evolution of sleep

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Learning with optical and quantum systems



Learning beyond classical limits



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Isaac Nape

School of Physics

Science

University of the Witwatersrand

Quantum neural networks

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Self-organising systems

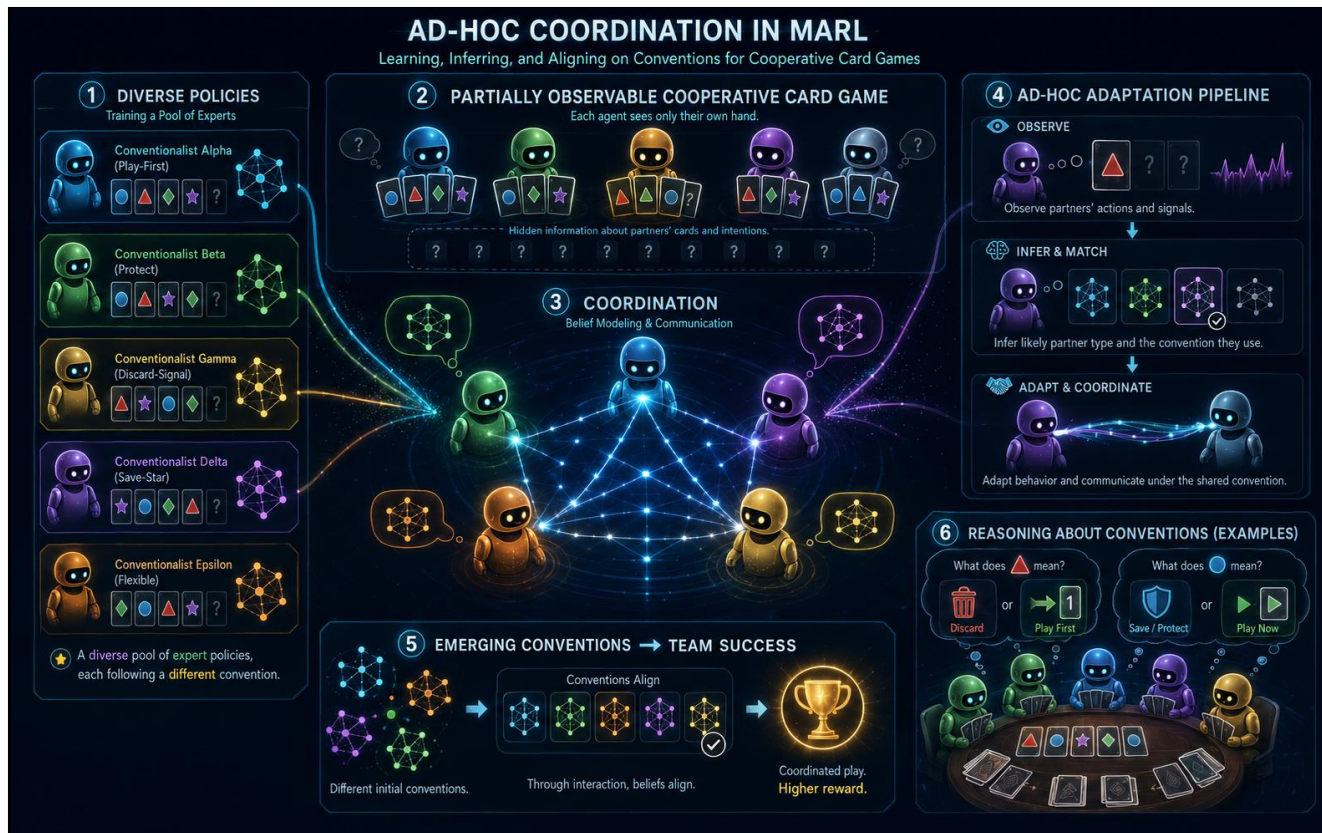
My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

Ismail Kalla

*No information available
at time of dissemination*

POSTCARD

Meaning in action: Conventions in Coordination



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Neural Discovery Institute

Jarrod Shipton

Computer Science and Applied Math

Faculty of Science

University of the Witwatersrand

Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

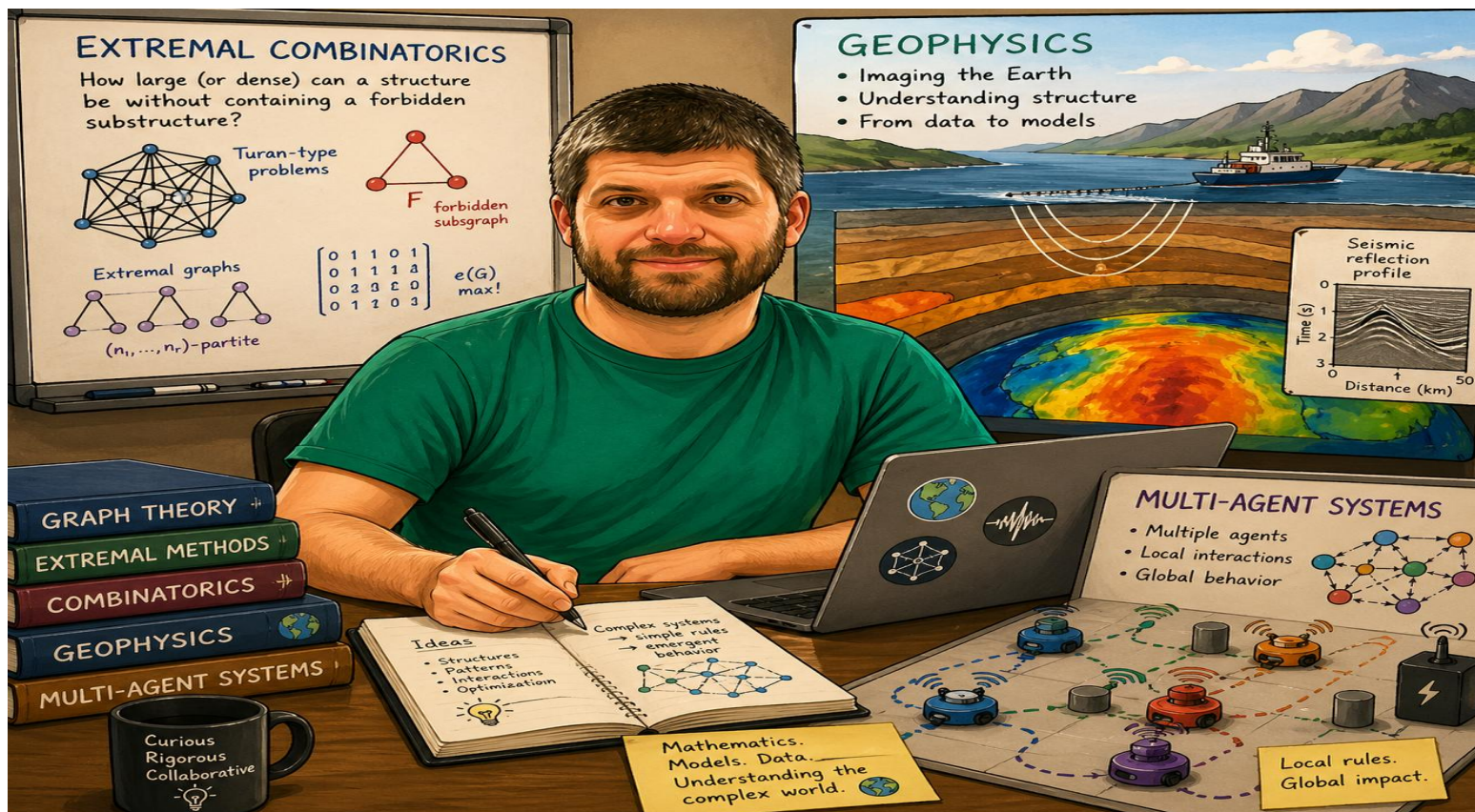
Conventions in Human Coordination

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

Coordinating without a playbook

POSTCARD

Jonathan Kariv



Jonathan Kariv

Lecturer, CSAM

DVC-R&I

Wits University

*Problems worthy of attack, prove
that worth by fighting back.*

POSTCARD

Sleep and Extreme Populations



Objectivity is an illusion that objective measurement can be made without the observer



Joshua Davimes

Biomedical Sciences/ SHEEP

Health Sciences

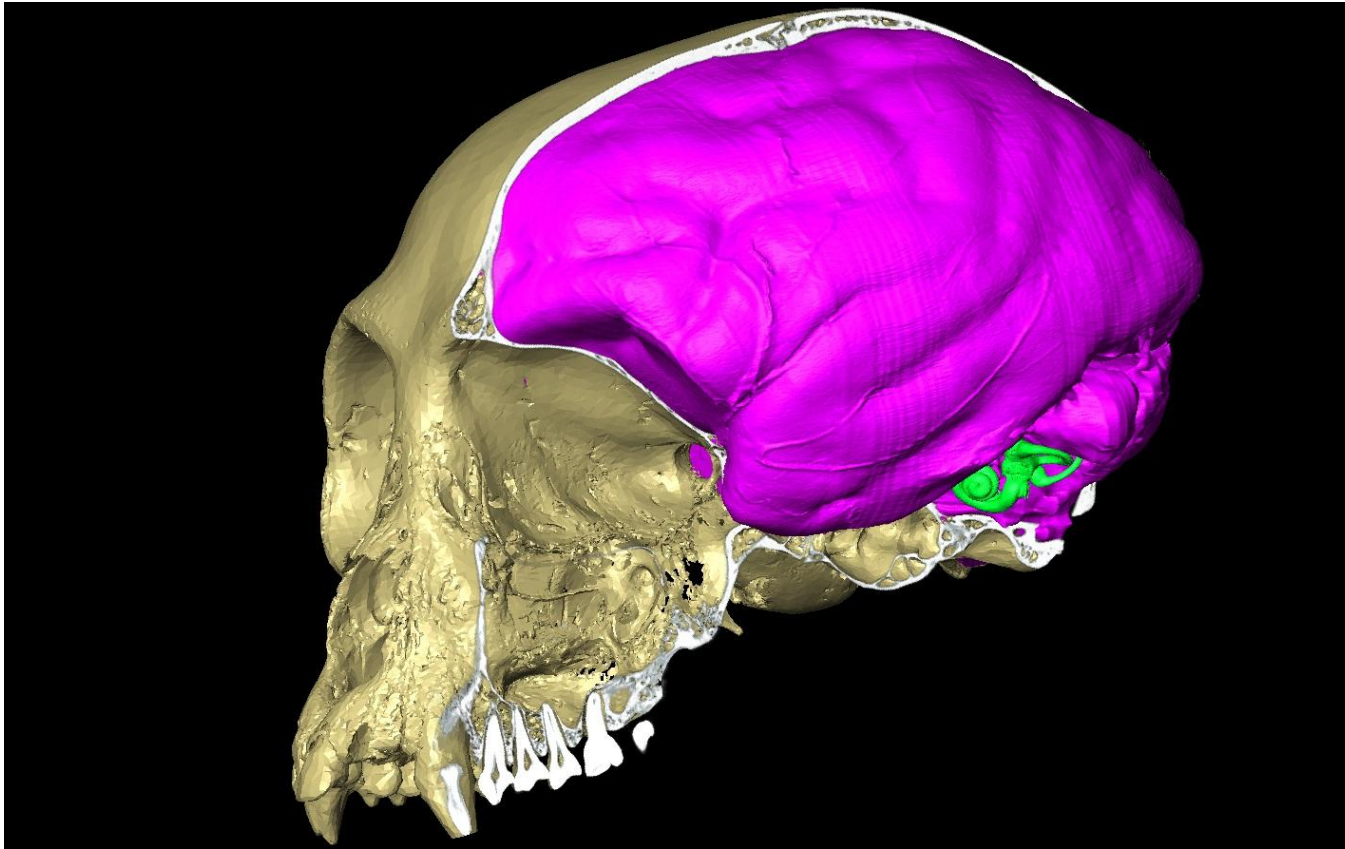
Wits University

AI Psychology/ Perturbations/ Sleep

Sleep/ Cognition/ Neurobiology

POSTCARD

Palaeoneurology



Origins of the mammalian brain



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Julien Benoit

Geosciences

Science

Evolutionary Studies Institute

Automatic CT segmentation

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Palaeoneurology

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

Karine Scheuemaier

*No information available
at time of dissemination*

Khondlo Mtshali

*No information available
at time of dissemination*

POSTCARD

HIV and Family, Cohorts, Holistic and Palliative care



*I see you even when you
don't see yourself!*



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Karl-Günter Technau

Dept of Paeds, ESRU, Sch Clin Med

Faculty of Health Sciences

WITS University

Ethics and support in healthcare

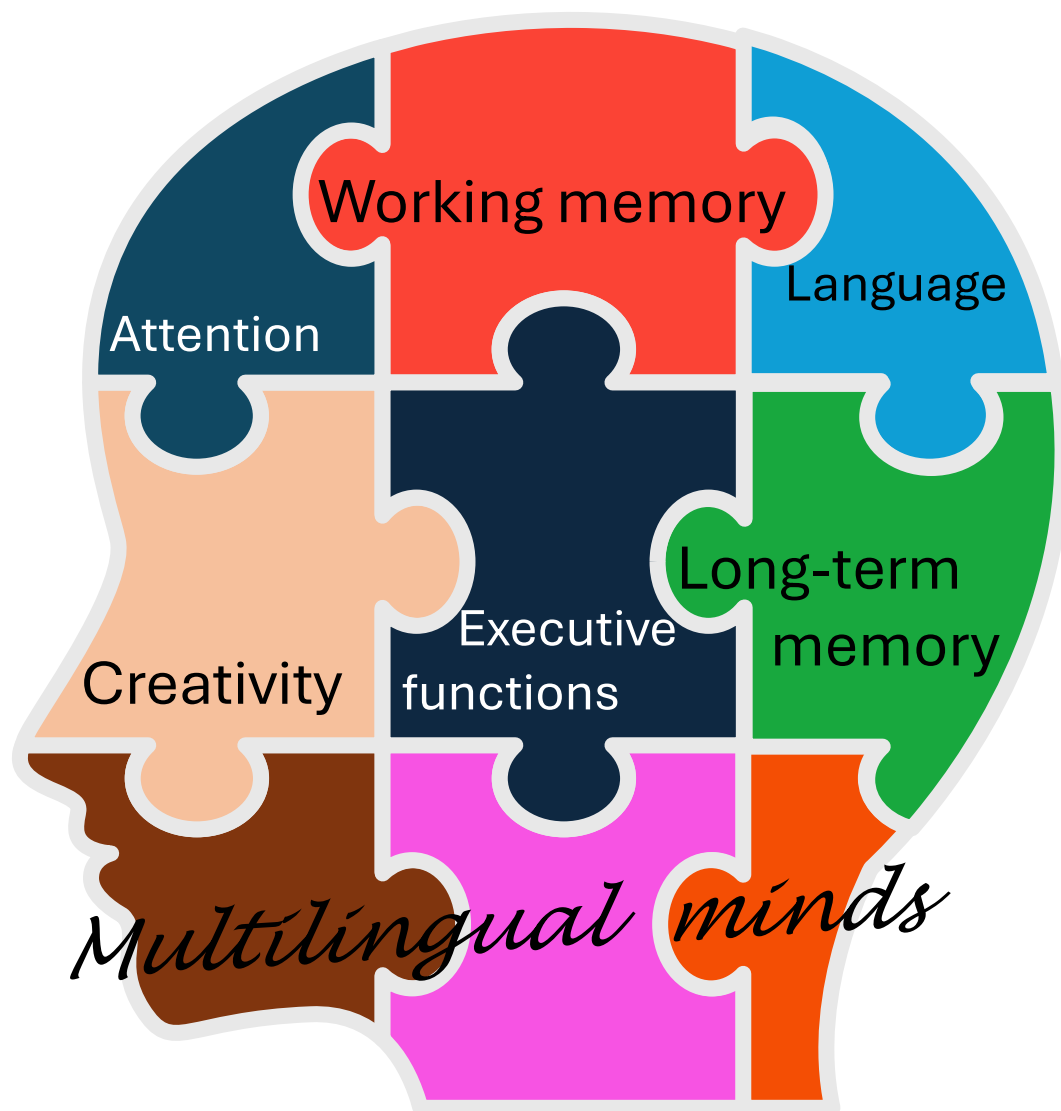
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Consciousness

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Cognitive neuroscience



Kate Cockcroft

Neuroscience Research Lab,
Psychology Dept, SHCD

Humanities

University of the Witwatersrand

Ethics and AI; Human-Machine
interaction; Cognitive AI

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Cognition & Assessment

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

AI for the Health-Energy Nexus: Bridging Smart Grid Optimization and Biological Stratification



Optimizing the grid; decoding the gut



Kayode Adetunji

SBIMB/Electrical and Info. Engineering

Health Sciences/FEBE

University of the Witwatersrand

AI interpretability for complex systems

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Computational biological stratification

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Insert your research topic/area here



Reimagining Intelligence Through African Languages and AI.



Kealeboga Aiseng

Department of Media Studies

Humanities

University of the Witwatersrand

AI and African Linguistics

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Philosophy



*It's about the journey,
not the destination*



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Khondlo Mtshali

Philosophy

Social Science/Humanities

University of the Witwatersrand

Consciousness and Moral cognition

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

The role of phenomenal consciousness in intelligence

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Insert your research topic/area here



See things from inside!



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Neural Discovery Institute

Prof Laurent BRUXELLES

ESI & Int Rech Center SHARE

Faculty of Science

French Institute is SA

3D, climate, caves modelling

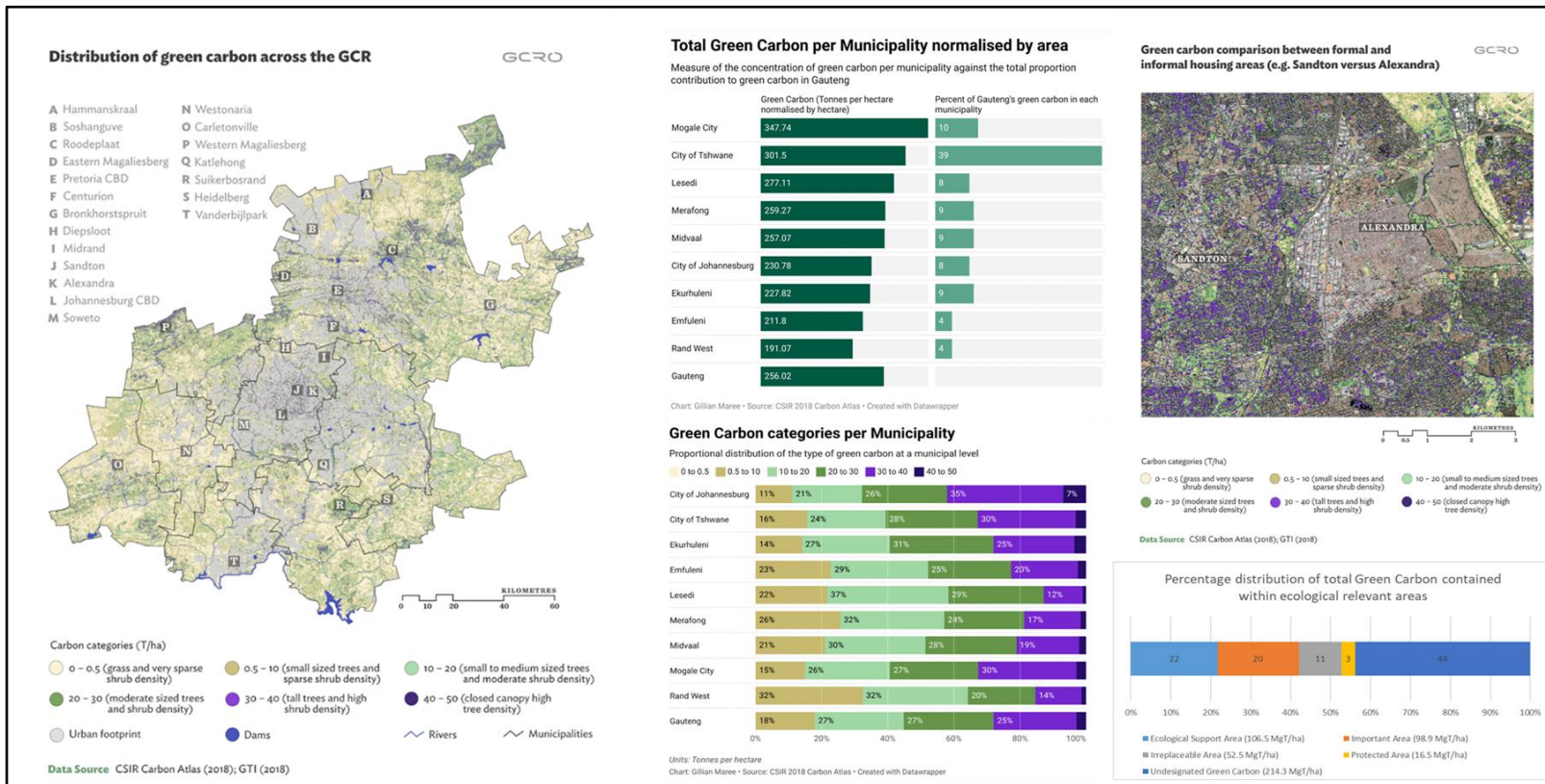
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Geomorphology, archaeology

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Urban Data Science and spatial modelling



MIND

Machine Intelligence and Neural Discovery Institute

Laven Naidoo

Gauteng City-Region Observatory

DVC

Wits/UJ/GPG/SALGA

To uncover novel spatial trends

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

The impact of AI on our daily lives

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

Data from Above, Decisions for Below

POSTCARD

Evolving HI-AI governance for Africa's development



Source of image: Acknowledgement to Tusi Fokane,
CIPESA, Uganda

<https://cipesa.org/2024/05/towards-a-regulatory-framework-for-ethical-artificial-intelligence-in-south-africa/>

Ethical, collaborative, African HI-AI



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Luci Abrahams

LINK Centre, SLLM

Faculty of Humanities

University of the Witwatersrand

Governance, policy, regulation, ethics and developmental approaches

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Collaborative human-artificial intelligences

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD SUSTAINABLE FINANCE



Value Investing OR Values Investing



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Marius H. Muller

Construction Eco's & Management

Engineering & Built Environment

Wits University

Integrated Reporting Analysis

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Ethical & Values Reasoning

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Guvaxvat nobhg gur arj zbeny ynaqfpncr



My hovercraft is full of eels



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Martin Bekker

Electrical and Information Engineering

FEBE

Wits

AI Ethics

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Conceptions of intelligence

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Automated contractual systems and the legal protection of vulnerable and digitally illiterate consumers in African markets



Michele van Eck

School of Law

Commerce, Law and Management

University of the Witwatersrand

Automated Contractual Systems

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Human Reasoning, Legal & Ethics Dimensions

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

*“Smart” automated contracts, smarter laws –
wish you were (legally) protected here!*

POSTCARD

Application of Structured (Laser) Light



Connecting the unconnected with lasers



Mitchell Cox

Electrical and Information Engineering

OC Lab, Engineering

Wits

All-Optical Neural Networks

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Are brains just Transformers?

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Artificial Intelligence in Education and Knowledge Production



Writing With Machines, Thinking as Human



Mmanape Hlungwane

Science and Technology Education

Humanities

University of the Witwatersrand

Gen AI and Knowledge Production

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Human Intellectual Agency

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Artificial Intelligence and decision sciences



Teaching AI to think and behave more like humans (on a good day)...



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Moinak Maiti

Finance, SEF

CLM

University of Witwatersrand

Intersection of AI, ethics, and trust

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Human-centric design

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

AI-Driven Invasive BCIs and the Regulation of Modulated Cognition



*In the final frontier:
T's & C's Apply - to your brain!*



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Nicolene Renske Steyn

School of Law

Commerce, Law and Management

University of the Witwatersrand

Adaptive AI systems in closed-loop
neuromodulation

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Legal protection of cognitive integrity

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Socio-technical trustworthy AI frameworks



*Empowering Communities through
Open, Private, and Collaborative AI*



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Ntsibane Ntlatlapa

LINK Centre

Humanities

Wits

Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Cognitive Empathy

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Gaming, AI and Culture from an African Perspective



Digital Transformation !



Olu Randle

Senior Lecturer / Digital Arts

WSOA/Humanities

Wits

Games AI and African Culture

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Cognitive functions through Video Games

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

Paida Mhangara

*No information available
at time of dissemination*

POSTCARD

Anatomical sciences



If we could talk to the animals...



MIND
Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Paul R. Manger

Anatomical Sciences

Health Sciences

University of the Witwatersrand

As a great tool to understand biology

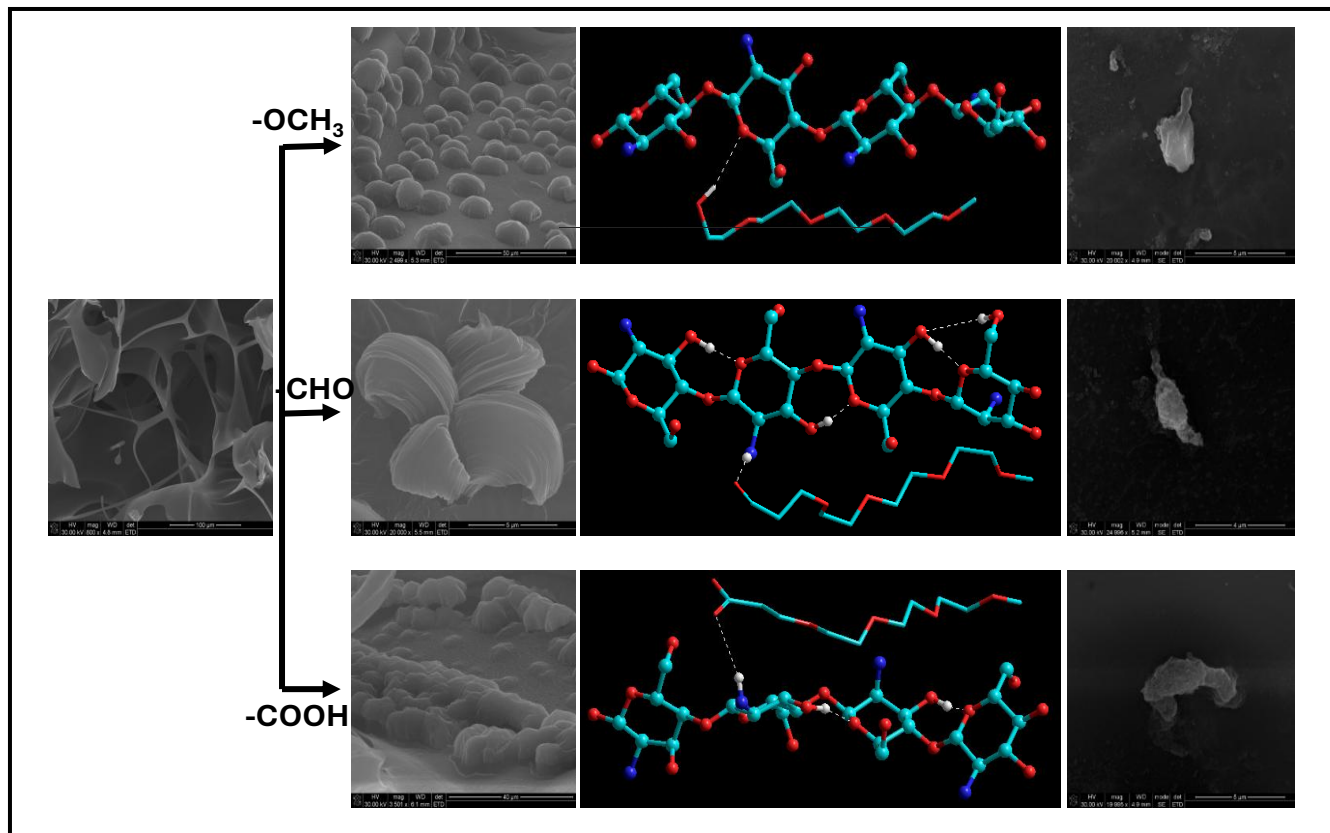
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Animal intelligence and consciousness

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Engineering de novo designer neuromaterial archetypes



Matter over mind! Dig deeper!



Pradeep Kumar

WADDP/Pharmacy/Therapeutic Sc

Health Sciences

Wits

Mathematical Modelling

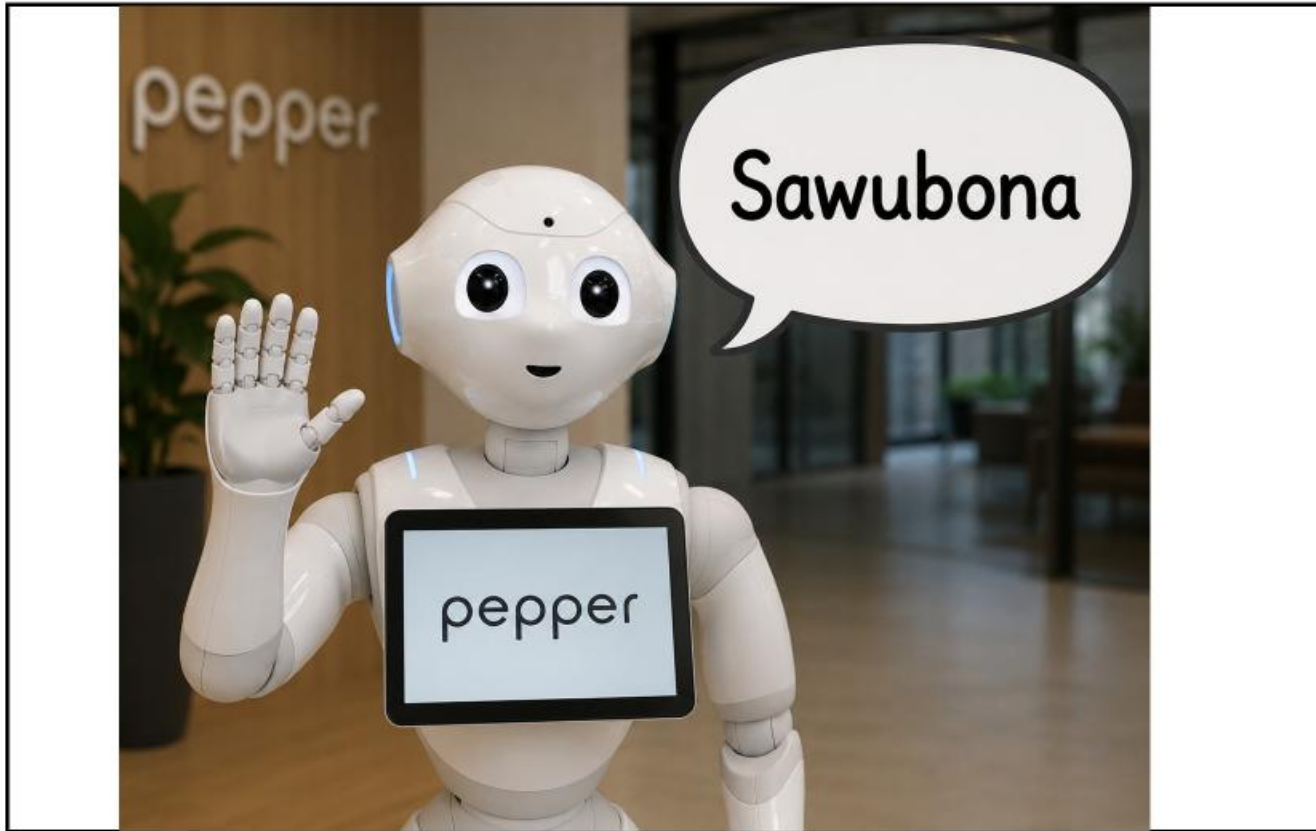
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

NeuroMaterials

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

African Robotics and ML



*I tune robots, guitars and anyone
who'll listen*



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Pravesh Ranchod

Computer Science and Applied Maths

Science

University of the Witwatersrand

Robotics/RL/Health

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Education

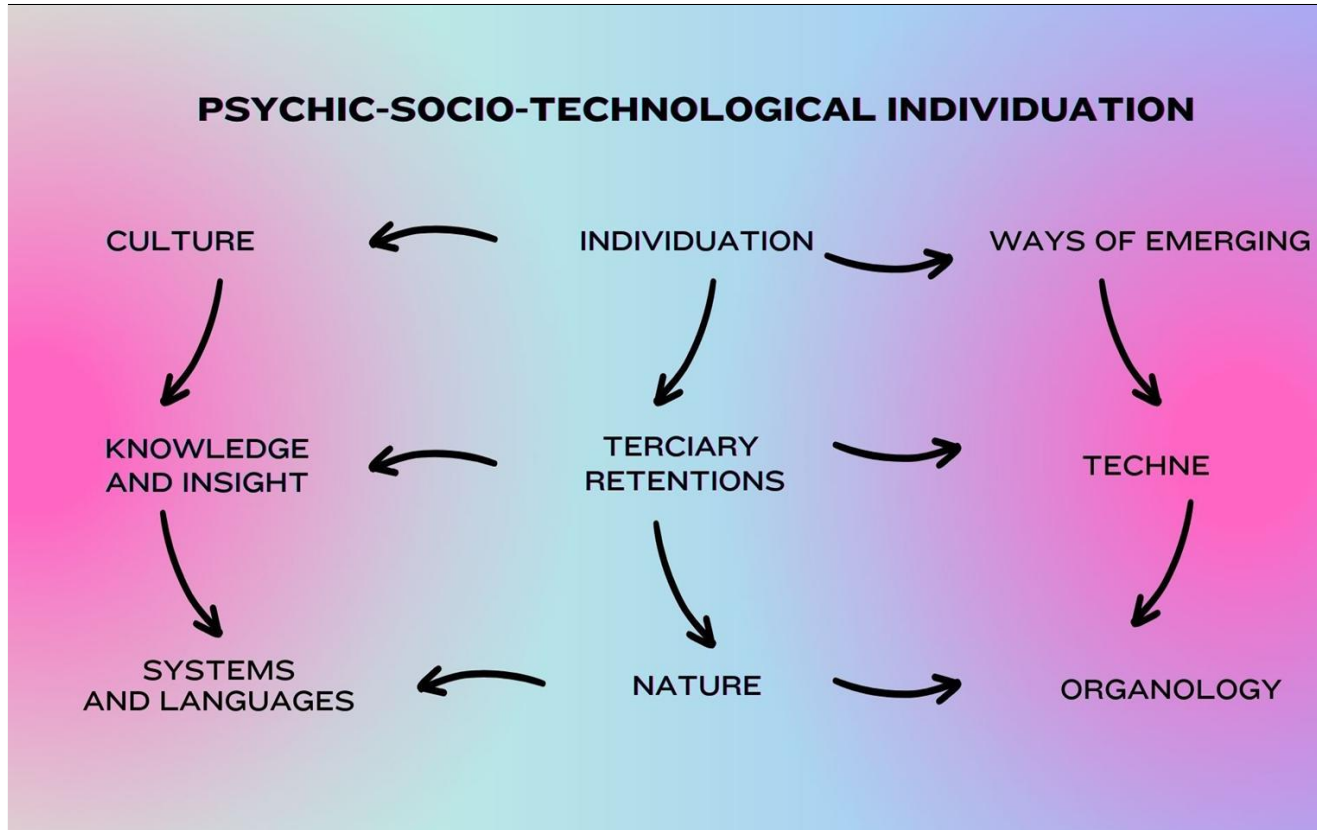
My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

Rendani Mbuva

*No information submitted
at time of dissemination*

POSTCARD

Hybrid Ecologies of Intelligence



*Reprogramming perception: where machines,
matter and imagination co-evolve*



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Renzo Filinich

Origins Center

Sciences / Arts

Wits University

AI as a co-creative agent in artistic practice

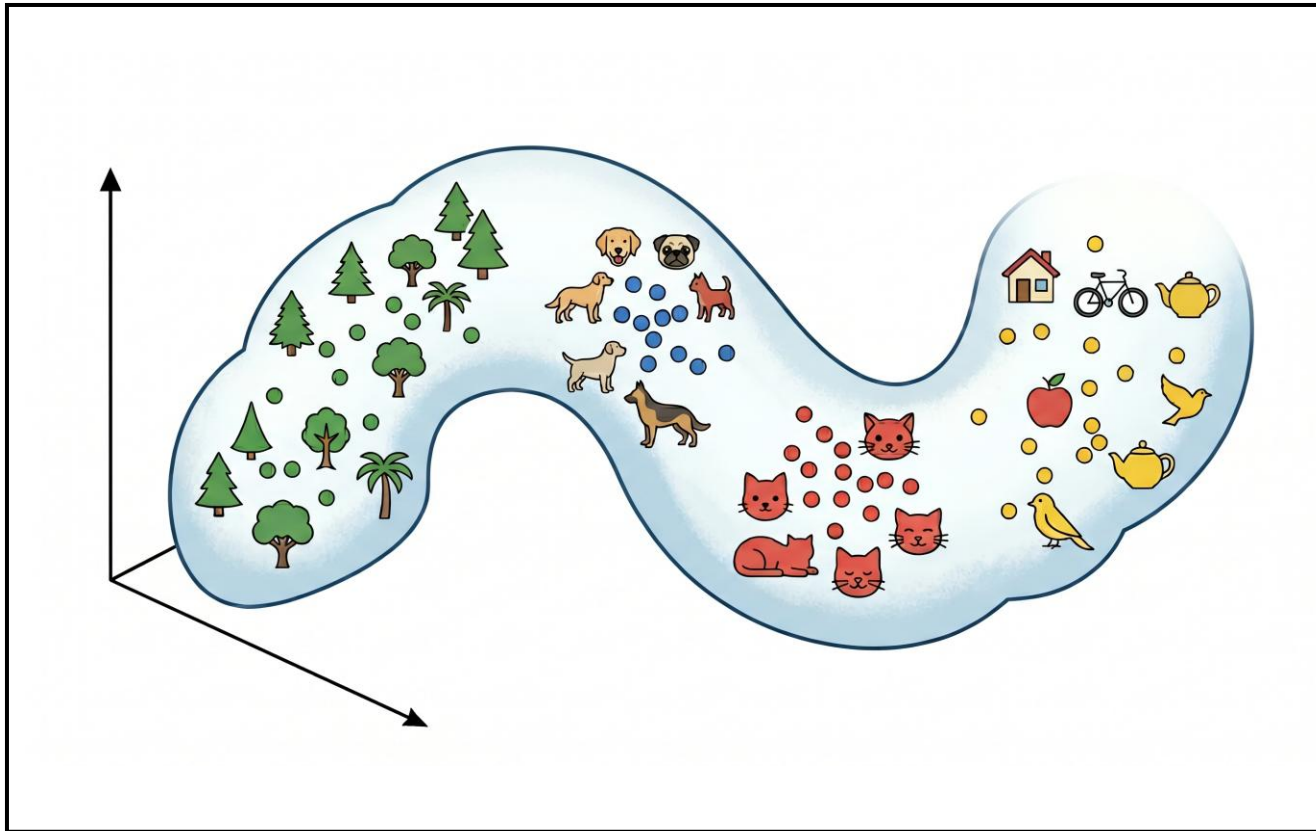
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Embodied cognition and sensory perception

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Low Resource Representation Learning



What data do you have?



MIND
Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Prof. Richard Klein

School of
Computer Science & Applied Maths

Faculty of Science

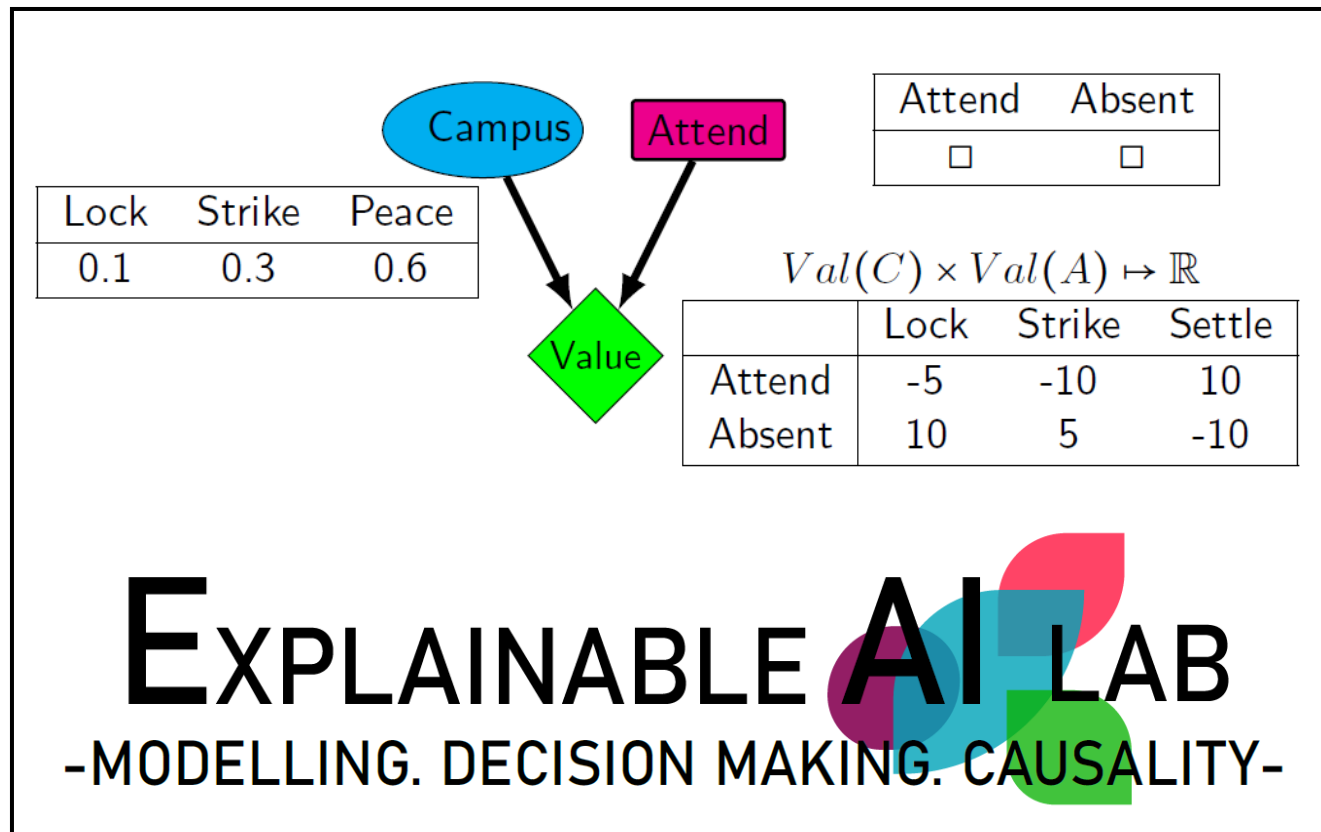
University of the Witwatersrand

Low Resource Representation Learning,
CV & NLP, Generative Modelling

Humans as low resource learners

POSTCARD

Explainable Probabilistic Machine Learning



Reasoning through uncertainty



Ritesh Ajoodha

Computer Science

Faculty of Science

University of the Witwatersrand

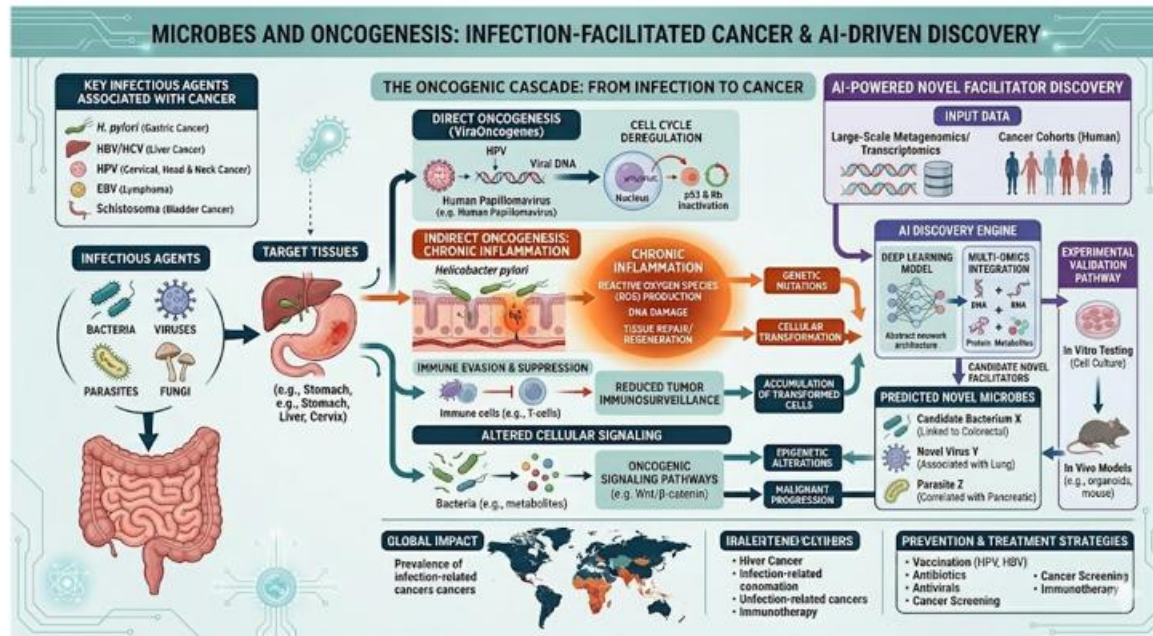
Explainable AI

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Human Reasoning and Decision Making

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

Infectious disease and cancer



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Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Robert Breiman

Infectious Diseases and Oncology
Research Institute

FHS

Wits

Rapidly identify novel ways to reduce Cancer burden in Africa

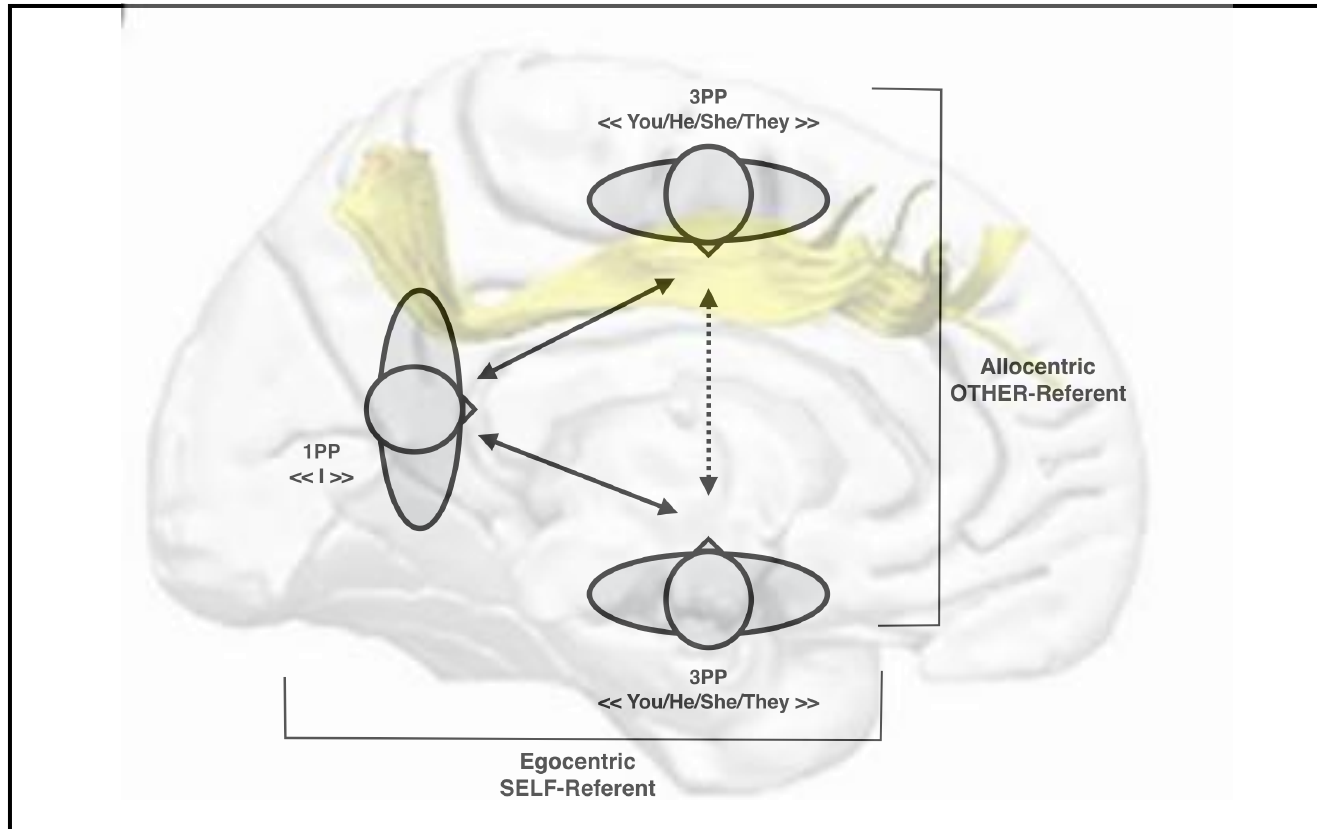
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Characterise the relationship of
Microbes and oncogenesis

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Self-awareness & embodiment



There is no self, without the other.



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Sahba Besharati

Department of Psychology

Humanities

Wits University

Human-AI interactions; neurotechnology

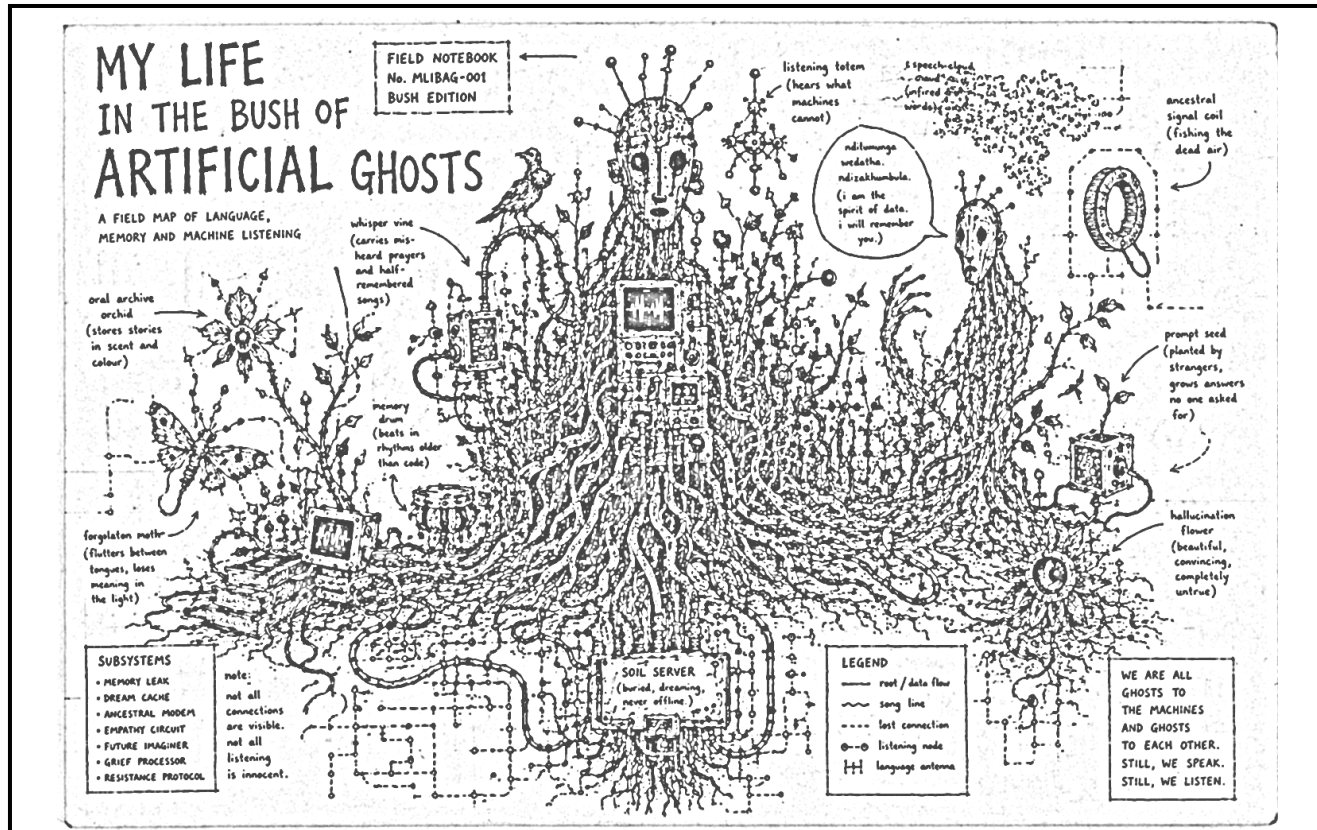
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Social cognition; affect; awareness

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Creative writing & science fiction



*Teaching the Machine to Hear the Poem:
Black Consciousness Meets Machine Consciousness*



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Stacy Hardy

Creative Writing / School of Literature,
Language and Media

Humanities

Wits

Poetics and AI • Creative writing as intelligence
• Machine interpretation • Speculative AI Futures

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Embodied & collective cognition

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Reinforcement learning & Robotics



Brains are in (and for) bodies



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Steven James

School of Computer Science and
Applied Mathematics

Faculty of Science

Wits University

Reinforcement learning

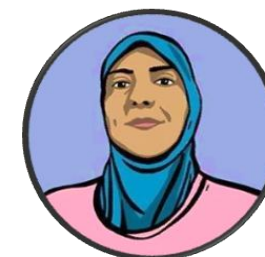
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Embodied intelligence

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Assessment, Technology & Mental Health



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Sumaya Laher

ASRIA - SHCD

Humanities

University of the Witwatersrand

AI in assessment & mental health

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

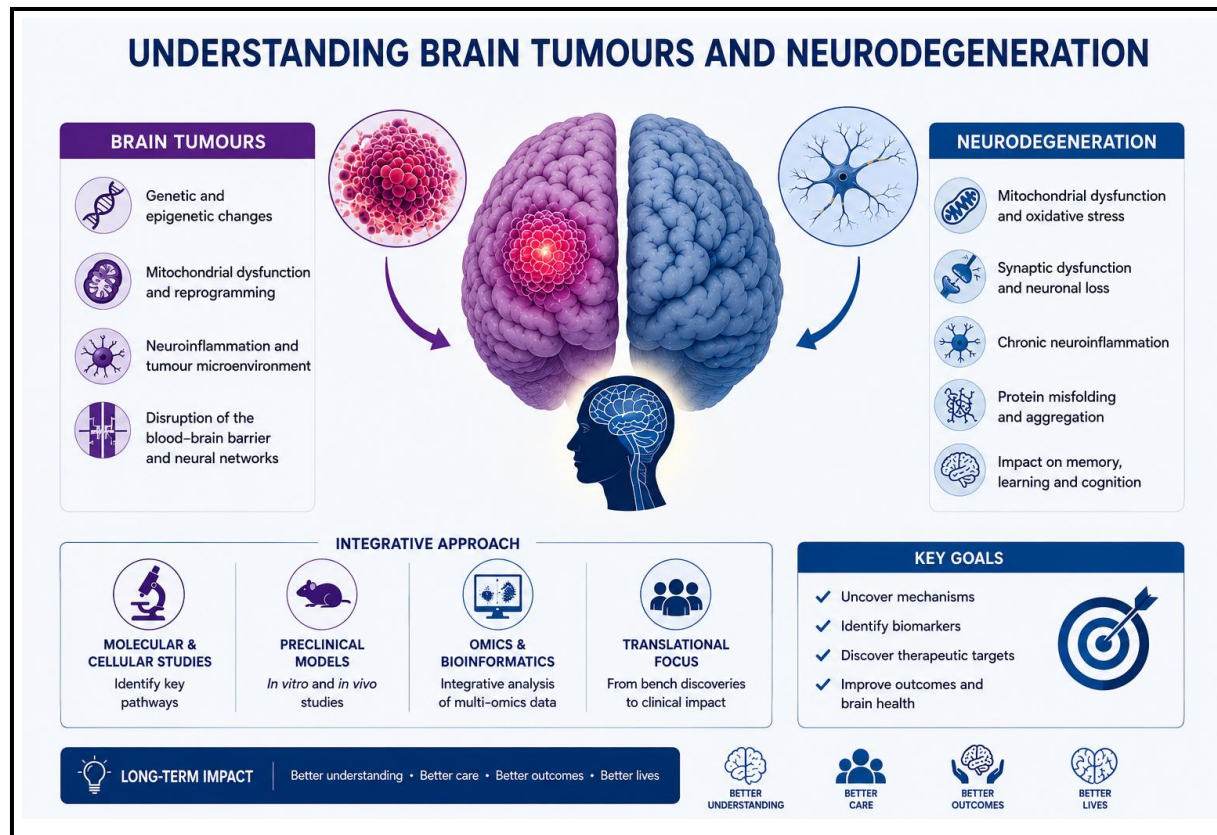
Psychological assessment

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

We measure what Matters...

POSTCARD

Identifying therapeutic targets for brain tumours and neurodegenerative diseases



Uncovering mechanisms, preserving minds



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Sylvester Omoruyi

Department of Anatomical Sciences,
School of Biomedical Sciences

Faculty of Health Sciences

University of the Witwatersrand

AI-driven biomarker discovery in
neuroscience

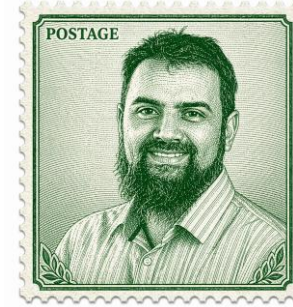
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Brain tumours & neurodegeneration

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

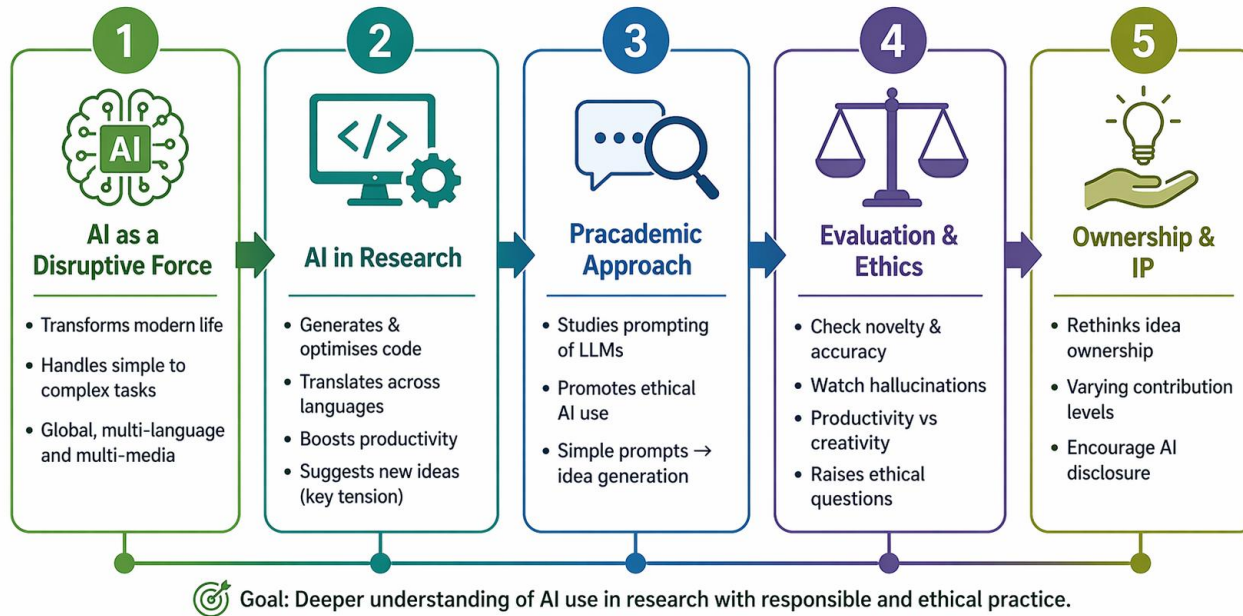
AI, ML, and IP



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Whose IP is it anyway? An ethical look at prompt engineering in algorithm development.



Think, for all mankind

Taariq Surtee

eResearch

DVC Research and Innovation

Wits University

AI, ML, and IP

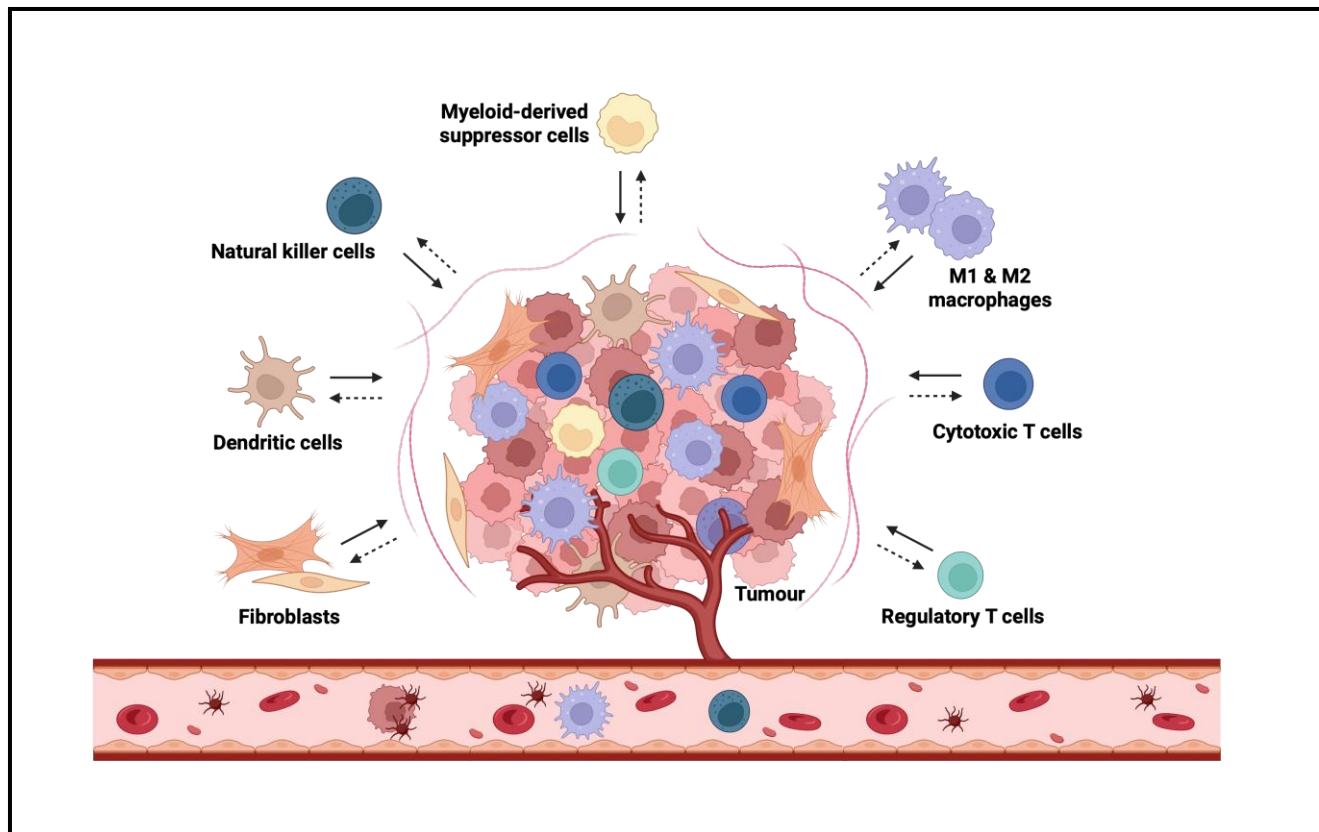
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Cognition and the soul

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Tumour progression – a lesson in evolution



What doesn't kill you, helps you adapt!



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Tanya Augustine

Department of Anatomical Pathology

Co-Director Wits Digital Pathology Hub

Faculty of Health Sciences

Wits

AI tools for understanding tumour evolution

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Adaptive biology & environmental pressures

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

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Lifespan Ability, Assistive Technology, and Rights-Based Participation



Come on in, the weather is fine!



Victor de Andrade

Speech Pathology and Audiology, SHCD

Humanities and ADR&I in the Faculty

Wits

AI that advances assistive participation, ability, and human rights across the lifespan

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

The intersection of technology, disability, human development, and assistive participation.

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Social Intelligence in Natural and Artificial Minds



Making Machines More MINDful!



Victoria Williams

Computer Science
and Applied Mathematics

Science

University of the Witwatersrand

Empathy, Morality and
Social Intelligence in AI Agents

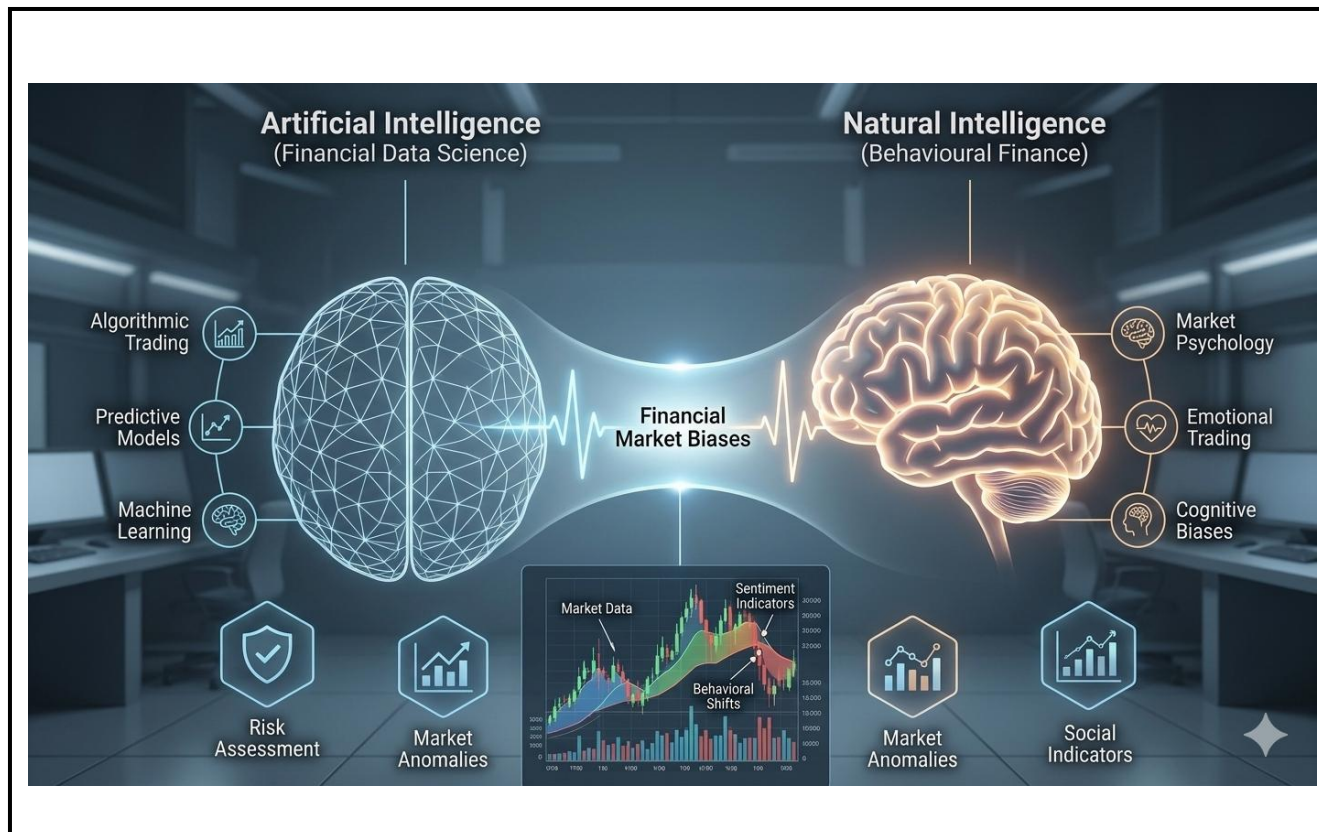
My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Emotion, Empathy and
Social Understanding in Humans

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

POSTCARD

Behavioural Finance; Financial Data Science



*Where behavioural finance meets data science;
and occasionally wins the argument.*



Yudhvir Seetharam

Finance Division, School of Economics and Finance

Commerce, Law and Management

University of the Witwatersrand

Predictive Machine Learning

My area of interest in Artificial Intelligence

Cognitive Decision Dynamics

My area of interest in Natural Intelligence

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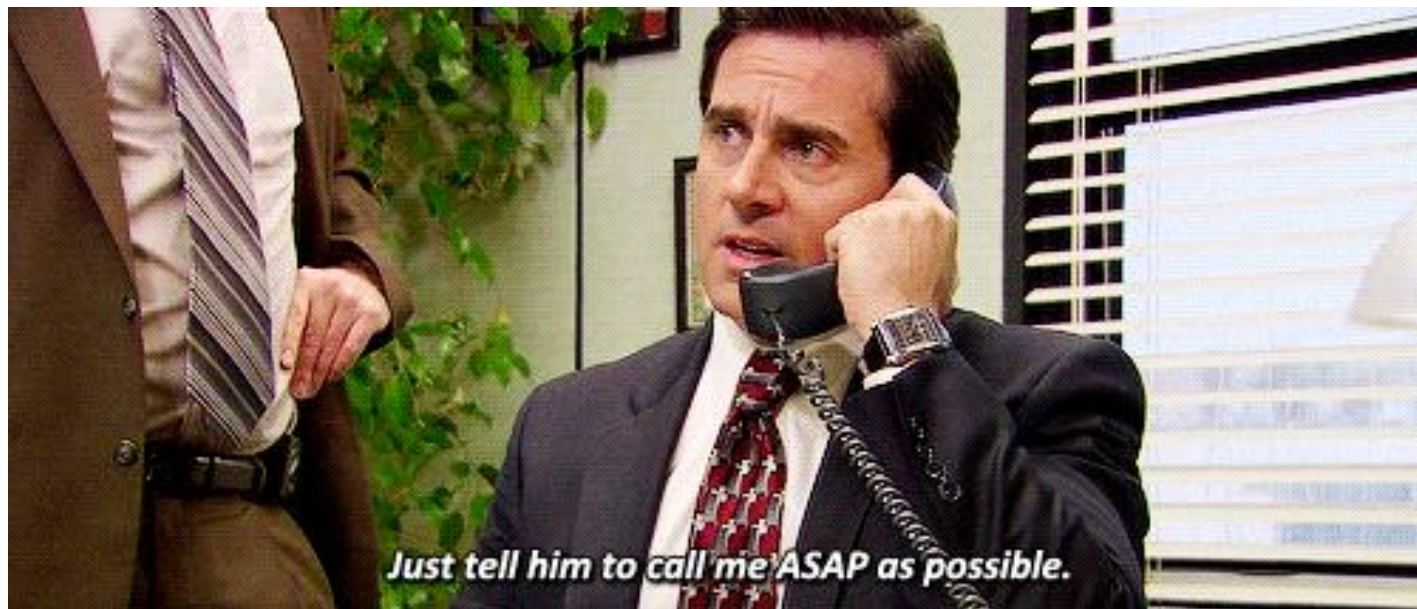
MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Staff 2026

POSTCARD

Grant management and administration



*Where strategy meets support
– making research happen!*



Daniesha Govender

Research Administrator, MIND

DVC-R&I

The Wits MIND Institute

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Financial & Research Management



MIND

Machine Intelligence and
Neural Discovery Institute

Frans Maluleke

Research Administrator, MIND

DVC-R&I

Wits University

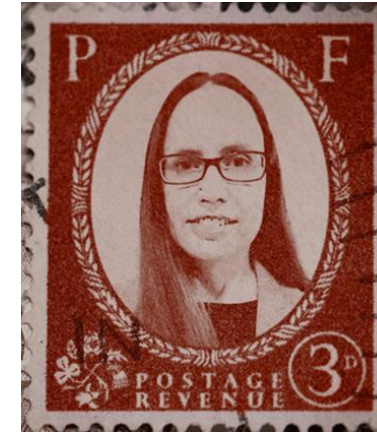
sekusele kancane sizophumelela!

POSTCARD

Research management and administration



How can I assist?



Caryn (Caz) McNamara

Senior Program Manager, MIND

DVC-R&I

Wits University
