



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

ENVISION 2030



2023 Learning and Teaching Imbizo

**Cultivating the use of Living Educational Theory
Research for enhancing multimodal professional practice and reshaping the future of higher Education**

Nalini Chitanand, Jack Whitehead, Marie Huxtable, Innocentia Mkhize, Emilia Sarupdeo, Lonna Mabandla, Adheema Davis, Ajay Mishra

**ANNUAL
& Learning
& Teaching
Imbizo
2023**



**BEYOND LIMITS:
RESHAPING THE FUTURE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**10-13 OCTOBER
TWENTY 23**

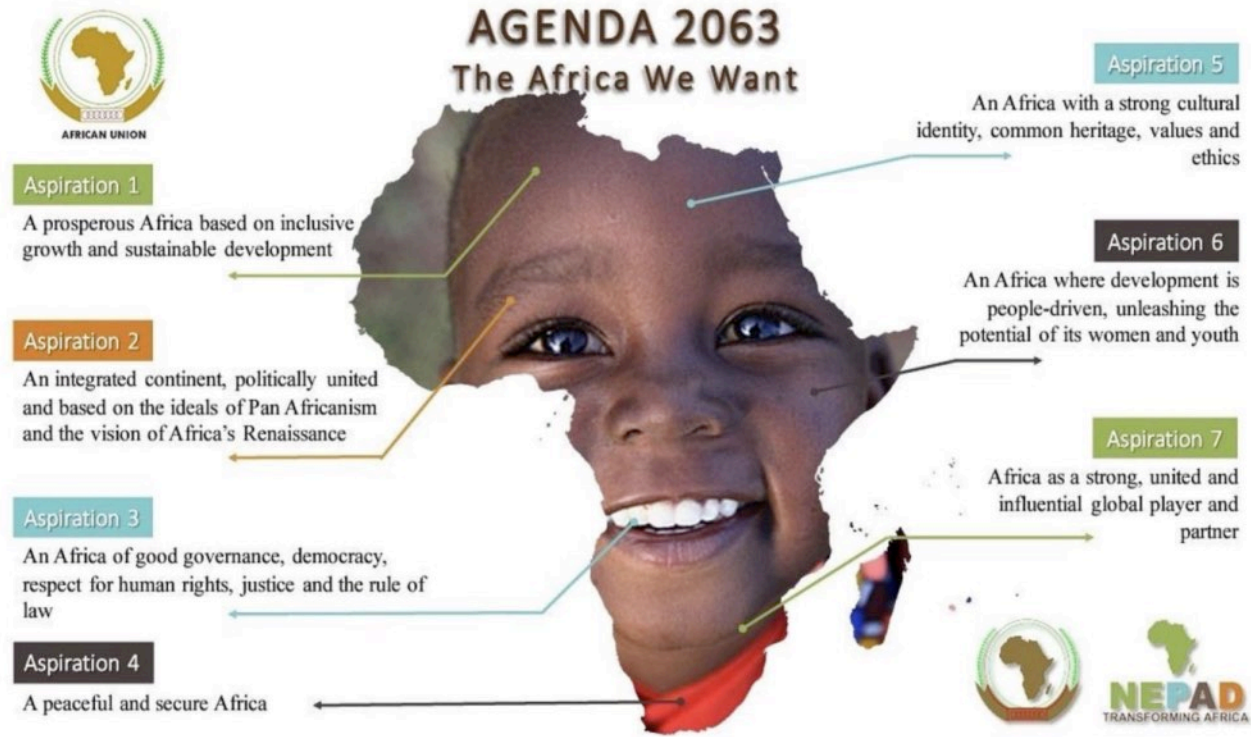
**COASTLANDS
UMHLANGA HOTEL**



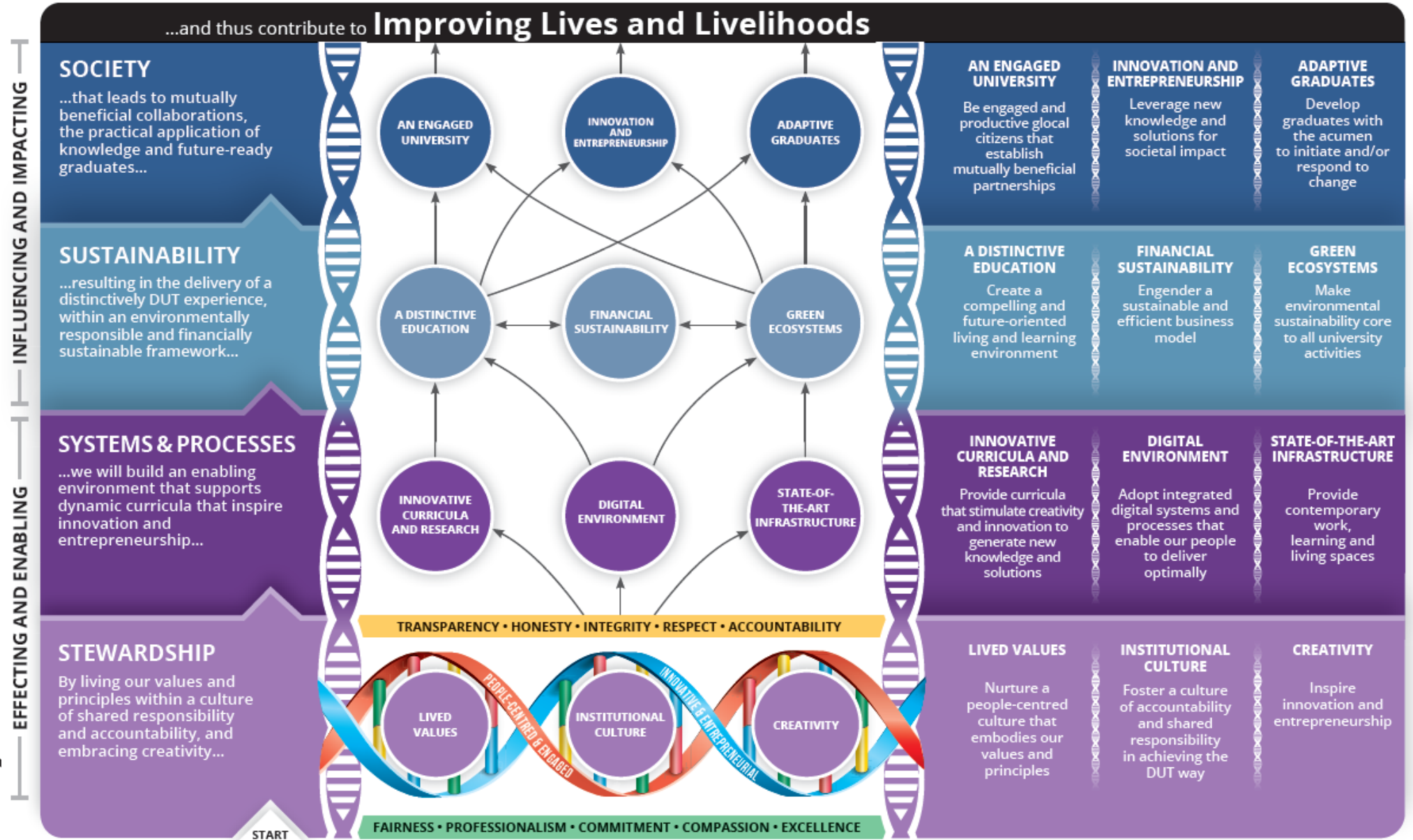
Cultivating a values based practice

- Improving my own practice as an Academic Staff Developer
- Developing, fostering and nurturing critically reflective/ reflexive practice
- Location of this inquiry: Academic Staff development

Why is this important?



Are we universities in Africa or African universities?
How do we enhance and develop the Global South?



DUT STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

DUT Strategic Initiatives	T&L Approaches	Assessment Strategy
Decolonisation	Refer to the DUT Discussion Paper on Decolonisation in Higher Education in SA & the Toolkit	
Entrepreneurship	Refer to the Entrepreneurship Policy and indicate how you are building entrepreneurial thinking and skills in your curriculum	
Creative Thinking	Indicate which aspects of creative thinking inter alia innovation, divergent thinking, creativity and so on	
PBL/PjBL/DT/etc.	Indicate how you are innovating LTA practices using these methodologies	
Innovative Curriculum	Include innovative teaching, learning and research and aspects of connected curriculum	
Distinctive Education	Include aspects of teaching, learning, assessment, curriculum and research that provide a distinctive DUT experience	
Internationalisation	Refer to the DUT Internationalisation Strategic Framework & indicate what aspects of internationalisation you are bringing into the curriculum	
Digital Economies	Include aspects pertaining to 4IR and 5IR such as automation, AI, KWS, DSS and so on	
Living Values	Select the living values covered for each module from: 1. Transparency 2. Honesty 3. Integrity 4. Respect 5. Accountability 6. Fairness 7. Professionalism 8. Commitment 9. Excellence 10. Compassion	

Acknowledgement: Rosh Sunder, 2023

SA CONTEXT

The SA Story: 2015-2017



Influence of History in
shaping practice



Decolonial Turn
Coloniality of Being, Power, Knowledge
(Maldonado-Torres, 2007; Mignolo 2007)

‘presence of the past
in the present’
(Bhaskar, 2016)

Contribute to making Higher Education more Fair,
Equitable, Inclusive and Socially Just....

Relevant, Responsive and theorised

ENVISION 2030

fairness • professionalism • commitment • compassion • excellence
transparency • honesty • integrity • respect • accountability



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE



S A C O N T E X T

<https://www.mrowe.co.za/blog/2020/04/universal-principles-of-learning-task-design-crisis-edition/>



“turn a critical eye inward and examine their own belief systems, via critical self-reflection (or critical reflexivity)” (Taylor 2014: 138)

How have I/we been complicit in uncritically contributing to the status quo?



Theoretical Framework: Transformative Learning (Mezirow, 2001)

Transformative learning is a process of effective changes to our existing frames of reference (our belief systems) - habits of mind and points of view - and enabling perspective transformation (Mezirow, 2001).

Transformative learning is the expansion of consciousness through which an individual can question themselves about their own feelings, beliefs, assumptions, and perspective on their purpose.

Theoretical Framing: Transformative Learning

Beneath the surface
Deep critical analysis
Perspective Transformation
Radical change on surface

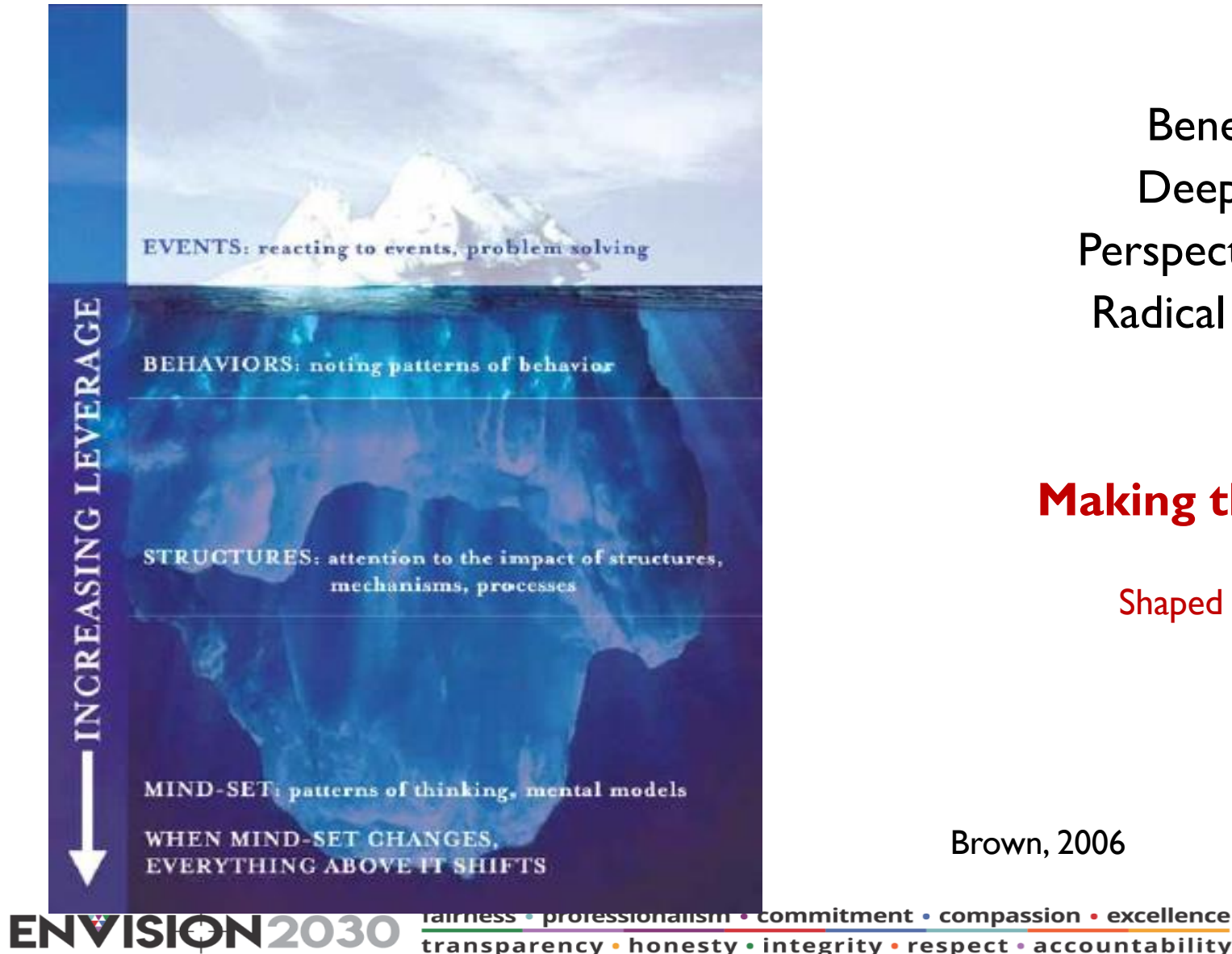
Making the Invisible visible

Shaped by particular Context

Brown, 2006



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE



Shifting the status quo



Transformative and Sustainable



DISRUPTION



Conform Reform Transform

BECOMING

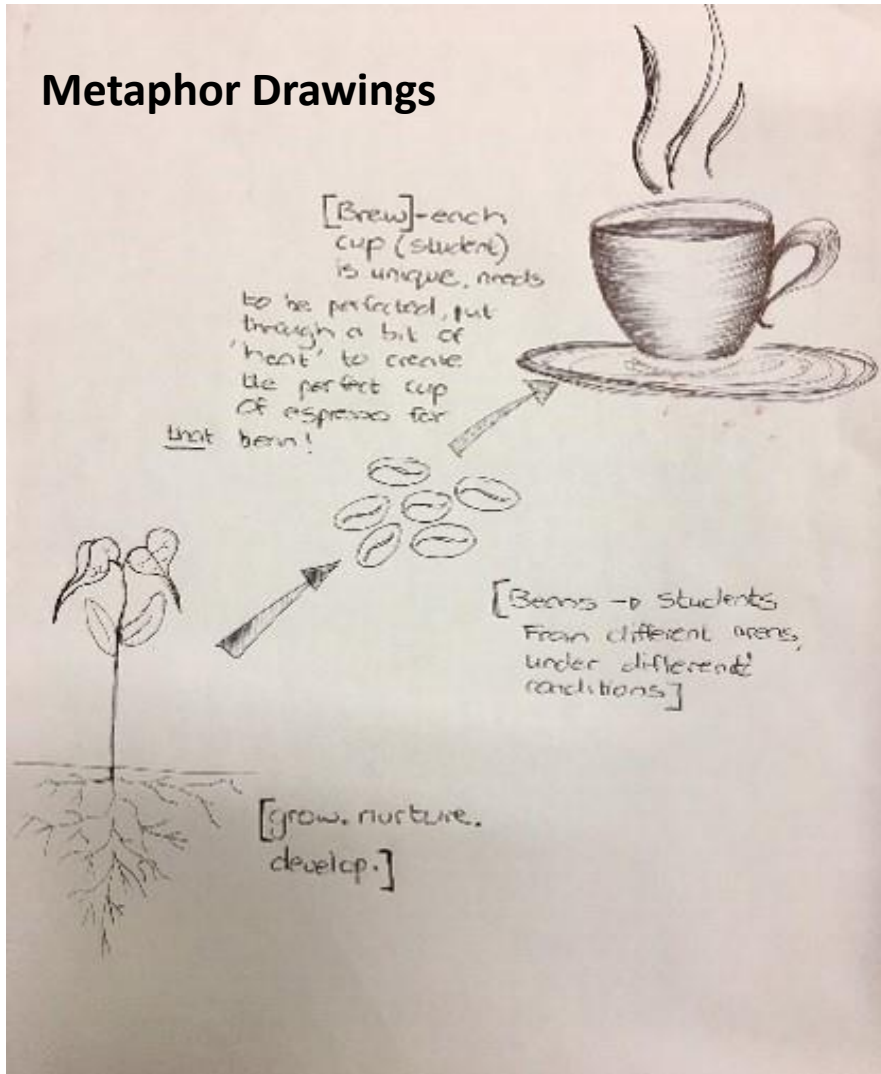
ENVISION2030

fairness • professionalism • commitment • compassion • excellence
transparency • honesty • integrity • respect • accountability



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

Metaphor Drawings



Action Reflection planner





Living Educational Theory

A focus on human flourishing – ENVISION2023

“A living theory is an explanation produced by an individual for their educational influence in their own learning, in the learning of others and in the learning of the social formation in which they live and work.” (Whitehead, 2008)

Living poster

A visual artefact to prompt our inner dialogue, articulate our values and educational influences

Pedagogy of Pausing (Patel, 2016)



Nalini Chitanand

Centre for Excellence in Learning & Teaching



Nalini nalinic@dut.ac.za

Meaning: Lotus flower of a thousand petals
– or an assemblage of lotuses
Signifying Multiplicities



I live out the meaning of my name through my pluralistic worldview, and multiplicity of approaches that I have incorporated in my practice and research, respecting multiple ways of coming to know and producing knowledge. This is important for South African higher education where the socio-historical legacies continue to condition and shape educational practices, privileging some, marginalising many. Therefore I value: co-creation, co-researching, co-traveling with my colleagues

I am passionate about making connections, cultivating partnerships and networks where we can work collaboratively toward a truly transformative and socially just higher education, society and world, including our posthuman world



I am an **Academic Development Practitioner-Scholar**
I strive toward **Transformative and Sustainable Academic Development** with values of **Respect, Love & Care** -- Embodied within the philosophy of **Ubuntu** (African philosophical approach)



Institutional work Academic Staff Development



Siyaphumelela
we succeed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ti2wmNmoguw> (28:36)

National Engagements

New Academic Transitioning into HE project (NATHEP)
[National Academic Development Landscape](#) (NADL) project:
[HELTASA Conference](#) Convenor



International Partnerships

International Transformative Educational Research Network (ITERN)
[https://tersd2022.kusoed.edu.np/committees/Living Educational Theory](https://tersd2022.kusoed.edu.np/committees/Living_Educational_Theory) Research
Legitimation Code Theory [LCT](#)
Transformative learning Network



Links to some of my institutional work:

[Academic Induction](#)
[Scholarship of Teaching and Learning](#)
Siyaphumela Hambisa Launch
[Student](#) and [Staff](#)
[SoTL Webinar 1](#) - with Chrissie Boughey
[SoTL Webinar 2](#) – with Jack Whitehead

[Curriculum Conversations](#) Aug 2021
[Co-creation webinar](#) – with Cathy Bovill
Learning & Teaching symposium:
[Day 1](#) & [Day 2](#)
[Specifications webinar](#) – with Anisa Vahed & Tyrone Groh
[COVID-19 reflections](#): HELTASA 2020

Research



<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nalini-Chitanand-2>

Educational Influence through recognition of our work: awards received
[SoTL 2020 Award](#)
[Curriculum Conversations 2022 Award](#)

The Spiral

denotes for me continuous learning, change, learning – possibilities and potentialities that exist.. through critical reflection, reflexivity – dialogue, deliberations, and partnerships



Dr Innocentia Mkhize

Dept of Chemical Engineering

A Graduate from Umsamo Institute

As a graduate from the esteemed Umsamo Institute, which comprises Indigenous African healers and researchers, my design philosophy is deeply rooted in the rich tapestry of ancestral wisdom and the holistic approach to knowledge and problem-solving.



www.umsamo.org.za

Dr Innocentia Mkhize



Guided by Indigenous Wisdom

PhD: Chemical Engineering (North-West University)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/innocentia-mkhize-04081322/>



https://www.dut.ac.za/faculty/engineering/chemical_engineering_and_pulp_paper/

Nurturing Minds & Empowering Engineers

Lecturer: InnocentiaM2@dut.ac.za

Serving as a Catalyst for T&L Excellence, ECSA Accreditation, and Ethical Integrity within DUT and the Faculty.

My approach to teaching chemical engineering, I strive to inspire and empower students to become transformative engineers, equipped with a comprehensive understanding of subjects such as Chemical Engineering Design, Process Fluid Flow, Technical Literacy, and Green Engineering.

My teaching philosophy is cultivating a dynamic learning environment involving students, guest lecturers, NGOs and industry partners. By fostering critical thinking, creativity, and hands-on problem-solving, we aim to produce adaptive graduates who are equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world.



African Beads Symbolise:

Heritage & Identity, Spirituality & Religion, Celebration & Festivals, Rites of Passage, Status & Wealth, Communication & Expression, Protection & Healing, Tradition & Craftsmanship.



Unveiling Earth's Secrets: Geohydrology & Acid Rock Drainage

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=VTkfb0gAAAAJ&hl=en&authuser=1>
Research Gate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Innocentia-Mkhize>

As my research philosophy revolves around the pursuit of understanding and addressing the challenges of Geohydrology, Geochemical models, Machine learning and Acid Rock Drainage. Through multidisciplinary collaboration, Geochemical models and Machine learning is a subset of artificial intelligence (AI), and field studies, I aim to uncover the mysteries of Earth's subsurface water systems and the mechanisms behind Acid Rock Drainage. With a focus on environmental stewardship and sustainability, I seek to develop innovative and comprehensive solutions that contribute to the responsible management of groundwater resources and the mitigation of ARD's environmental and socioeconomic impacts.



STEAMing Ahead for a Sustainable World

www.elozi.org

Founder & CEO

ELOZI-NPC envisions a future where STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education is at the forefront of sustainable development, empowering youth to shape a thriving and environmentally conscious world. Through innovative learning experiences, ELOZI-NPC aims to inspire a new generation of problem solvers and change makers who embrace STEAM disciplines to create a sustainable and equitable future for all.



ERASMUS Staff Mobility Programme Enables Exciting Collaboration with the University of Huelva, Spain, on COIL Activities for MEng Chemical Engineering aligned with DUT-ENVISION2030!

Self-Discovery and Collaborative Impact: Reflecting on my Journey in Chemical Engineering Education

Dealing with Self-Doubt:

- The journey was accompanied by moments of self-doubt.
- Unsure if I could successfully complete the task, especially in Chemical Engineering Education.

Finding Myself and Unveiling My Efforts:

- Realised how much effort and passion I invest in my work, often without fully acknowledging the extent of it.
- This project has shed light on my commitment to enhancing Chemical Engineering Education.

Collaboration with the University of Huelva, Spain:

- Connected with colleagues from the University of Huelva in Spain.
- COIL Activities starting end of October 2023.

The Road Ahead:

- Addressing the Gap in Teaching and Learning Research.
- Writing a research paper focusing on the decolonisation of Chemical Engineering Education.
- Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education for Lecturers.

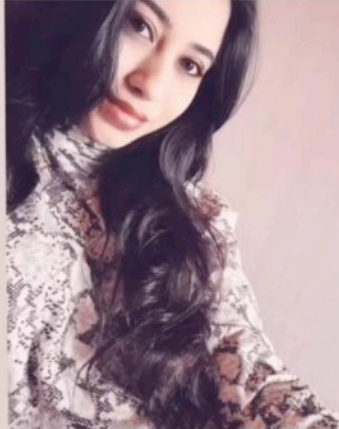
Ms Emilia Sarupdeo

Dept of Fashion and Textile

Emilia Sarupdeo

Fashion Designer
DUT Fashion and Textiles

NDip: Fashion 2017,
BTech: Fashion 2018
(Deans merit award, cum laude),
MAA: Fashion 2023 (cum laude)



Emilia Meaning
(Latin origin):
Ambitious
Signifying my
perseverance to success,
achieving my goals.

/ style
/ maximalist
/ minimalism
/ inspiration

I am a person that shares equal qualities of an introvert and extrovert, I am an ambivert.

Similarly, I perceive myself to be a "Maximalist Minimalist" type of designer. I can create anything I imagine. I may come across

As a perfectionist, however, I believe that the beauty lives in our imperfections.

EMILIANA
FASHION ATELIER

My teaching philosophy is to further the boundaries of students design thinking and practical application to emerge their creativity and innovations.

To individually assist in theoretical research queries, encouraging collaborations, making ethical, sustainable choices in material, and providing honest advice based on my experiences in order to enhance their personal growth into successful South African fashion designers.

Living Poster 2023

Instagram:
@emiliana_s_
@hypomelanosis_beauties



- * Gideon Merit Award 2017
- * DUT Emma Smith Art Scholarship Candidate
- * EDHE Lekgotla 2019
- * SAFW Top 10 Student Competition
- * WearSA Fashion Show
- * NESP: Nurturing Emerging Scholarship Programme
- * Commonwealth Fashion Education Symposium



Values:
Kind, supportive, respect,
improve,
Inclusive, helpful,
understanding, teamwork,
empathy



Diversity

di-ver-si-ty

it is an art about thinking
free, without stereotypes;
it means understanding.

ENVISION2030

transparency • honesty • integrity • respect • accountability
fairness • professionalism • commitment • compassion • excellence

CREATIVE. DISTINCTIVE. IMPACTFUL.

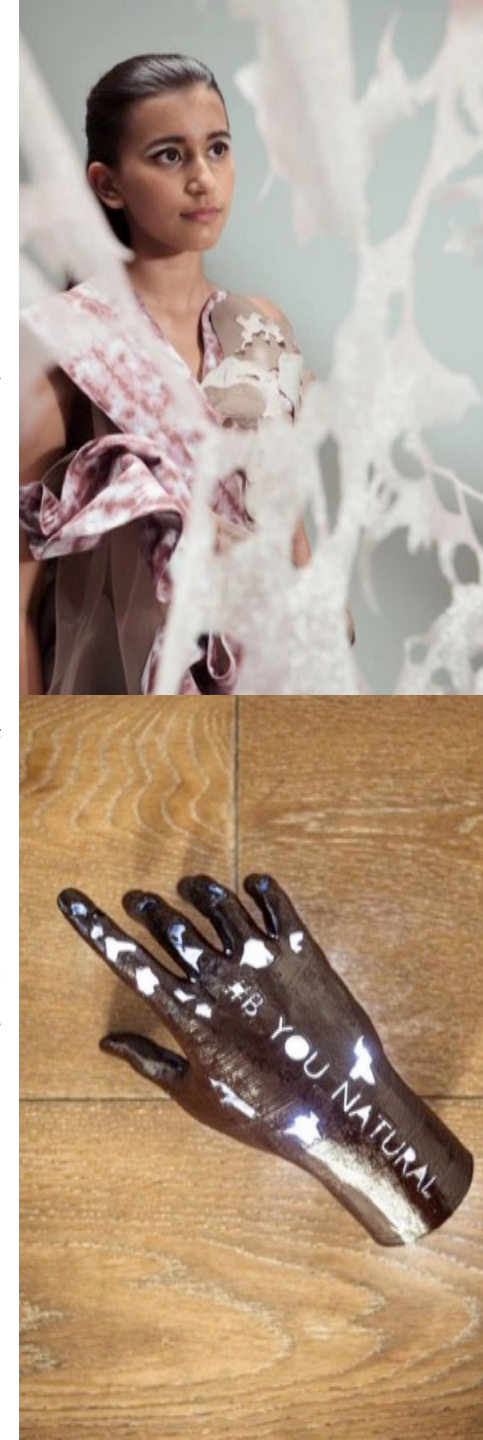
ENVISION

DUT
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

I am Emilia Sarupdeo, a Fashion Designer, a Masters of Applied Arts in Fashion graduate and a NESP academic intern at DUT. It brings me great joy to have received this opportunity to participate at the Imbizo by sharing my insight about the use of Living Education Theory Research as Living Posters, in reshaping the future across professional practices. In fact, we may be asking ourselves the question of how this sort of artefact can add to reshaping the future? These posters may appear simplistic, especially coming from a creative myself, however, the composition of a living poster in my experience required a lot of thought. Due to its' personal nature, the posters include information of how you view yourself and how you aim to improve your practice through your own embodied values. The ideas combined in curating such a poster is not about making yourself fit the role of your profession, rather the qualities you instill in yourself become expressed, shared, and portrayed in multiple ways and in return other individuals can perceive, respect and acknowledge the values showcased towards your practice, hence becoming motivated to instill embodied values of their own, in their practice. Cultivating the use of this theory helped me to define my teaching philosophy. My teaching philosophy is to further the boundaries of students design thinking and practical applications to emerge their creativity and innovations. To individually assist in theoretical research queries, encouraging collaborations, making ethical, sustainable choices in material, and providing honest advice based on my experiences, in order to enhance their personal growth into successful South African fashion designers.

I believe that living posters can evolve as a form of data inquiry for academic research study purposes. For example, my participation at DUT's CELT academic induction and my MAA study titled, "Analysing Instagram pages of South African fashion models with vitiligo using multimodal communication for a practice -based study", became a reference that led to my understanding of living posters. Due to my study incorporating multimodality, I understood and perceived living posters to fit as a form of multimodal communication due to its non-restrictive, yet inclusive rule of semiotic modes such as text, image, hyperlinks, videos, gifs, animations and more. The various signs of communication through these modes therefore depict in-depth descriptive meanings to form representations. This allows individuals the freedom of expression in any professional practice. In my living poster, I refer with an image of one of my artefacts, taken from my practice-based study. A 3D printed sculptural hand lamp, this artefact is symbolic of my hand with vitiligo. Vitiligo (Vit -ih – Lie -go) is a long term diagnosis, a type of skin disease which causes melanocyte cells to depigment the skin, resulting in the development of white patches that appear in different areas of the body (Vallerand *et al.* 2019: 1371 ; Sarupdeo 2023: 1). The skin condition "exists equally amongst all genders with no racial predisposition" (Sarupdeo 2023: 1). Therefore, the design represents the mapping of the skin, like a global map, regardless of shift or change in position and colour – improving my practice means to be diverse yet interconnected – proudly South African, unified, inclusive and #B_You_Natural. In a competitive industry, be true to yourself and what you choose to represent. Find your way through those negative spaces and make them shine. I always say that a person will consistently win and succeed by competing with themselves and not others.

Cultivating your own living educational theory ensures that we can uphold the DUT Envision 2030 values along with expressing your own embodied values, it adds the "A" to STEAM education and can be used as a form of data in multimodal research methodologies for any professional practice in aim to reshape the future. Before I hand over to my colleague, I would like to refer to the words recently mentioned by Jack Whitehead and the words embedded in my study by Gade (2012: 492), emphasizing the significance of Ubuntu. A social value of shared qualities and interconnectedness that holds that I am because you are, therefore, you are because I am (Gade 2012: 492; Sarupdeo 2023: 91). Thank you.



Ms Adheema Davis

Dept of Architecture

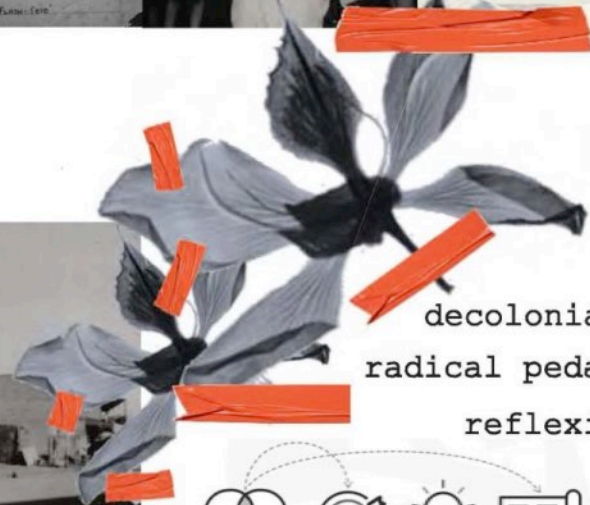
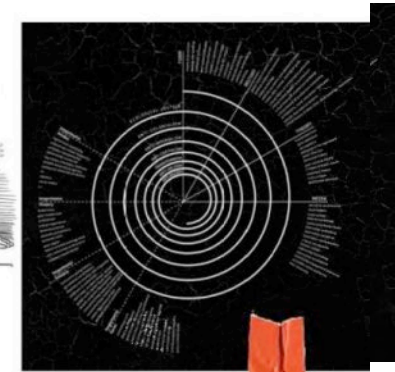
re-membling heritage • redefining public culture • decolonising architectural education



DOLLAR BRAND
(ABDULLAH IBRAHIM)



PLAYS
SPHERE JAZZ



decoloniality
radical pedagogy
reflexivity



design thinking
empathise • define • ideate • prototype • test



architecture of repair.

adheema davis

lecturer at the department of architecture
durban university of technology

[email](#) • [linkedin](#) • [academia](#)

architect • academic • mandela washington fellow

pr.arch (sacap) • mia (saia) • b.a.s (ukzn) • m.arch (ukzn)

"justice, is what love looks like in public,
just like tenderness is what love feels like in
private." dr cornel west

عظمة

arabic: ain-dha -meem

greatness, determination, firmness of purpose

collaboration • compassion • complexity

What does this work mean?

I am guided by the title given to my living poster, **architecture of repair** – an active and conscious reflective exercise of inclusion that locates the self within the action.

Education as unravelling unconditional regard for one's being. Compassionate witnessing and challenging for one's doing. - Dani d'Emilia.

Working as an architect, academic, and researcher is my *ikigai* –



the Japanese concept meaning a reason for being, that converges one's passion, mission, profession, and vocation.

What I love: architecture, revisionist history, culture

What the world needs: compassion, justice, critical thinking

What you can be paid for: graphic representation, research, public speaking

What you are good at: creative problem-solving, conscientisation, analytical skills

What has it prompted in me beyond the exercise?

Within my everyday practice, it has grounded **an interdisciplinary departure point for engaging the presumably tangible world of architecture, recognising and richly enmeshing the intangible** (our collective history and humanity – a concept rooted within our consciousness through our same-same but different indigenous knowledge systems, religion, and socio-cultural practices) **shifting perspectives toward decolonisation.**

Creative research methodologies and values-based teaching pedagogies have opened pathways toward **seeing the relationships between people and place as sacred**, centering humanity – of myself and students, of the communities of past, present, and future.

It has **directly translated as personal professional development** in the form of my PhD research proposal – interrogating sites of forced removals as monuments of Apartheid-coloniality, unpacking the whitewashing of heritage conservation, and its relationship to architecture and public culture.

Ms Lonna Mabandla
Dept of Town and Regional Planning



L O N N A S B U L E L E M A B A N D L A

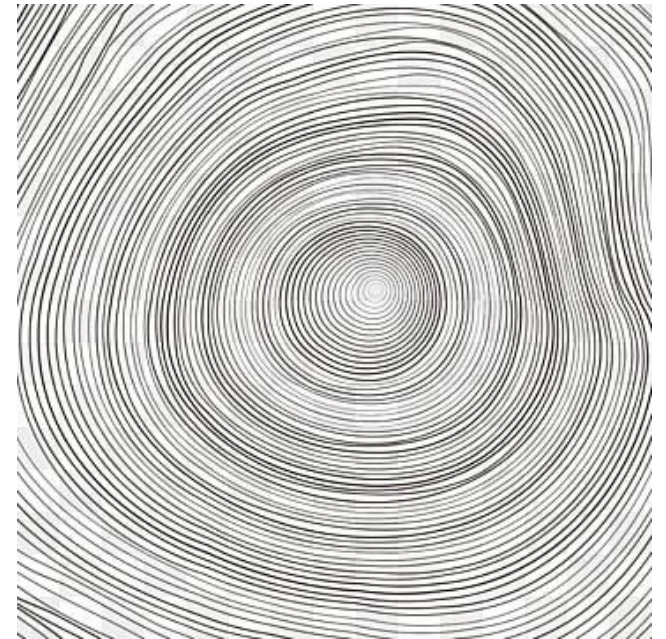


ENVIS

UT
CHNOLOGY
HWEPHESHE

Living Values

- Everybody lives on a set of values whether we are aware of what those values are or not, they are perceived by people in the way we choose to live our lives and the way we choose to perform tasks.
- The living values poster is a reflective exercise that allows us to clearly define our values and we become conscious of how they influence our actions
- Putting together the living values poster was a pleasant experience but presenting it required me to be quite vulnerable which is just another layer or different level of reflection.
- This made me realise that the living values poster is a way of uncovering those layers that inform our teaching.
- The more engagement you have with uncovering these layers the more you start to recognise the patterns and how these values have shaped your life until now.
- You also realise how you start to impart these values in your teaching. For example: Freedom.
- When we are aware of our values we can test them because we have something more tangible we can draw from. In this way we find out what works and what doesn't.



Prof Ajay Mishra

Dept of Chemistry



- I am academic and follow the Heart of Research
- Passionate towards Sustainable Clean Environment and society
- Believe in philosophy of CREATE (Care, Respect, Ethical, Active, Transparent and Empathetic)
- Support the teamwork
- Collaboration and Skill development
- How can I make difference in your life is philosophy of life

https://www.dut.ac.za/faculty/applied_sciences/chemistry/staff/



**Charity begins at home-
Mandela Day: 18 July 2023**

NSTF Finalist 2023: <https://www.dut.ac.za/prof-ajay-kumar-mishra-is-shortlisted-as-a-finalist-in-the-science-oscar-awards/>



Ajay Kumar Mishra
Professor: Durban University of Technology, South Africa
Verified email at dut.ac.za - Homepage
Nanoscience/nanotechnology Materials science Composite/nanocomposite
Water Research and Bio-in...

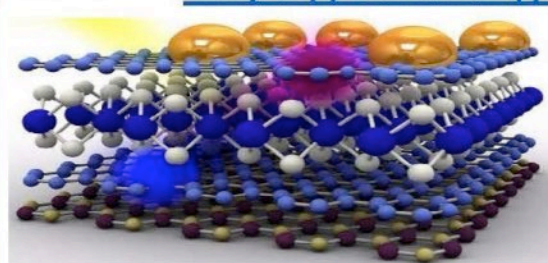
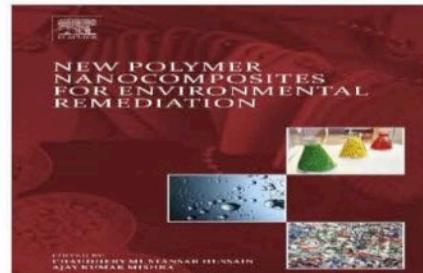
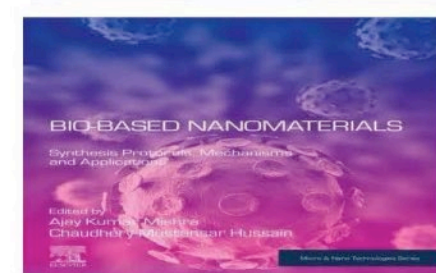
FOLLOW

Cited by

VIEW ALL

	All	Since 2018
Citations	10502	6754
h-index	44	35
i10-index	194	128

<https://scholar.google.co.za/citations?user=5Um1GE4AAAAJ&hl=en>



200 ppm Cr(VI) solution

PPy/F₃O₄

Nano-composites

Nanocomposites + Cr(VI) solution

Magnetic separation

Cr(VI) free water

Magnetic bar

0 ppm Cr(VI) solution

Prof Jack Whitehead & Dr Marie Huxtable

University of Cumbria (UK)

Some meta reflections as a contribution to the presentation at the Learning & Teaching Imbizo 2023

Prof Jack Whitehead jack@livingtheory.org

&

Dr Marie Huxtable Marie_huxtable@yahoo.co.uk

How does the work that we've done extend & contribute to the Living Educational Theory Research global community of practitioner-researchers?

As participants in the DUT Academic Induction Programme DUT make their living-posters and presentations public they:

- Extend individual and collective knowledge and understanding of how to support self and others to realise their responsibilities as a professional practitioner and global citizen.

These responsibilities include researching their practice to understand and improve it and make validated values-laden, educational knowledge generated in the process available for all to learn from and contribute to – and helping others do so too.

- Contribute to the development of a Living Educational Theory Research approach to Community-based Educational Research



How do we use the living posters to inquire into our practices and develop a philosophy of teaching and learning?


Each person is showing how they are using their living poster to inquire into their practice and develop their philosophy of teaching as they make their living posters and presentations public



Suggestions for us & other researchers

“The Living Values for me are like a bouquet of ethos, yardsticks and morals that define our corporate culture as the DUT community. It ensures that we view things from the same lens. These values include transparency, honesty, integrity, respect, accountability, fairness, professionalism, commitment, compassion and excellence, as enshrined in the ENVISION2030”

Dr Moreku (Dean of Students) 1st December 202 <https://www.dut.ac.za/envision2030-living-values-framework>

- To improve your professionalism, and in the process contribute to DUT realising its values-laden purpose, we suggest you continue developing your knowledge, understanding and practice of Living Educational Theory Research by working with others to create your new living-poster as a start to:
- Preparing a proposal to submit for presenting at the 4th International Conference on Transformative Education Research and Sustainable Development in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2024 . See Proceedings of the 3rd Conference in 2022 at <http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/tersd/proceedingsTERSD2022.pdf>
- Preparing a paper to submit for publication in the Educational Journal of Living Theories ([https://e](https://ejournals.dut.ac.za/)  Educational Journal of Living Theories) by 2024/2025.

THANK
YOU

