



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TALKS

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DATA TO MANUSCRIPT: THE INTRICACIES OF JOURNAL ARTICLE WRITING

Professor Tennyson Mgutshini facilitated a virtual workshop on journal article writing for DUT staff, postgraduate students, and research fellows. Professor Tennyson shared his experience with the DUT community on the dynamics involved in developing their manuscripts for publications.

The core focus of the workshop centered on the path to publication. Professor Mgutshini explained that researchers must identify the research topic, identify the journal they wish to publish in, as well as read and understand the guidelines of the journal. Professor Mgutshini implored researchers to be intentional about choosing a journal to publish, he highlighted factors to consider when selecting a journal, the accreditation status of the journal, relevant readership, recent publications from the journal as well as the internationality of the journal. Professor Mgutshini affirmed that students and research fellows must be political and strategic in selecting journals for publication.

In his concluding remarks, Professor Mgutshini referred to the “Do’s and Don’ts of article writing”, he said that researchers must ‘learn how to maximize their publication potentials’ through detailed literature debates and relevance of the topic matching the journal’s interest. To learn more about how to maximize your success for journal article writing, please click here: <https://bit.ly/3nZo0VS>



ADVANCING WOMEN IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (AWRI)

Exclusive interview with Dr Reshma Suchren - - the recipient of the award

This dedicated programme is part of the Research and Postgraduate Support Directorate objective to empower women researchers from the different disciplines at the university. The programme offers opportunities for women to come together to define and find sustainable solutions that address the shortage of women in STEM, as well become leaders and role models for female researchers of younger generation.

Please give us a brief background about yourself and what inspired you to be an academic?

I am a Senior Lecturer and the research chair of the Research Committee in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism, in the Faculty of Management Sciences. I obtained my PhD in 2012 in Geography and Environmental Management from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I also supervise postgraduate students within my department. In terms of what inspired my journey I had remarkable mentors throughout my academic life, and their passion for academia was contagious which in turn has greatly inspired me. Moreover, my two daughters have always motivated me to be a worthier person both in my career and my family life. I also strongly believe that education is the premise of progress, in every society, hence my drive into academia.

How did you hear about the AWRI Programme?

During the 2020 level 5 lockdown, when DUT was completely shut down, I used the time to explore research ideas on the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, I initiated and completed two major research projects and I was the principal researcher for both projects. Given that the pandemic was novel and unexplored, my research focused on the impacts of COVID-19 on accommodation establishments in SA with a focus on its response and recovery strategies. The second project examined how the pandemic influenced traveller perceptions and travel behaviour. The studies yielded two considerable empirical data sets with great publication potential. I also had empirical data from other research activities that was ready for write-up and publication. It was then that I approached the Directorate for Research and Postgraduate Support and was informed that I could apply for the Advancing Women in Research and Innovation (AWRI) grant, which I did, and I was successful with my application.

How has been a recipient of the AWRI award influence you and other women looking up to you?

The AWRI award has made an astoundingly progressive impact on my research and my career in a short space of time. I was the first ever recipient of this award and I am extremely grateful to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation & Engagement), Professor Moyo, and her incredible team for their unwavering support and encouragement along the journey to this award. During the six months of the grant, I was able to publish 6 papers in DHET-accredited journals where I

was the sole author of many of these papers. For me, coming from limited research potential to achieving these great feats has been encouraging and I am indebted to the AWRI grant for this. This award has made me recognised my untapped research potential and certainly serves as an impetus for my research and academic aspirations. I am more determined than ever to improve my research capacity and output, and to empower other women to make meaningful contributions to society through research. As a woman and an academic, and by leading through example, I always encourage younger females, including my daughters, to vigorously pursue education and to become addicted to constant and never-ending self-improvement.

There is still an under representation of women in science and research and for us to remain globally competitive, we need to bring in talent from women to promote equal opportunity and diversity to give significant progress to science and education. My advice to women on achieving their goals is that although the road to success is not easy to navigate, you can do anything if you have the passion, the focus, and the support. Be prepared to fail but walk from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.

What major research are you currently undertaking that would encourage young women to engage in scientific research?

I am currently working on two major research projects which focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic. These projects respond to the call for transformative research and fosters critical thinking at a time of crisis. It further assists in attaining capacity or preparedness for all stakeholders to better cope with negative impacts of the pandemic on industry and society in South Africa. I am also engaged in collaborative work with the University of Montreal, Canada where we are looking at research on building smart cities, which is also linked to COVID-19 pandemic and the move towards 'contactless' societies and industries. I am also undertaking research in collaboration with the University of Coimbra, Portugal, which centers on Creative Tourism and fostering tourism and cultural synergies for localized, strategic approaches to revitalization.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME - ARTICLE WRITING FOR PUBLI- CATION FOR THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



The article writing for publication mentorship programme organized for the School of Education started as a series of workshops in 2021. The aim of the mentorship workshop was to equip PhD holders with advanced academic writing skills and to enrich the ability of research fellows to translate their research findings into published journal articles. The final workshop was presented in the form of a face-to-face writing retreat. The mentorship programme was led by Professor Sarasvathie Reddy, an Associate Professor in the discipline of Higher Education Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Professor Reddy, who is a prolific writer, brought her expert skills to this cohort and mentored the staff through a series of workshop including: introduction to understanding research in higher education; literature review and theoretical framework. The writing retreat consisted of three days of intense work where staff were dedicated to actively engage in writing and critical reading. Staff members enjoyed the benefit of Professor Reddy's expertise in article writing for publication. At the end of the retreat, staff were equipped with writing knowledge skills and were able to finalise their manuscripts to submit to their journals of choice. Professor Reddy will continue to mentor the staffs and provide consultative services relating to the journal article submissions.

DUT HOSTS 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The first International Conference on Sustainable Development was hosted by the Directorate for Research and Postgraduate Support at the Durban University of Technology in collaboration with eThekweni Municipality, the city of uMhlatuze Municipality and the International Education and Partnerships Directorate between the 7th and 9th December 2021. The conference was linked to the DUT ENVISION2030.

The inaugural edition of the international conference was centered on sustainable development across Africa. The conference was held on a virtual platform and saw in attendance international collaborators and local participants. The integrated approach adopted by the conference bodies discussed key issues relating to the critical achievement of sustainable African goals and aspirations. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RIE), Professor Sibusiso Moyo, officially opened the conference through her welcome and introductory remarks. In her remarks she acknowledged and appreciated the keynote speaker and conference speakers, academic staff members, presenters, postgraduate students, and coordinators of the conference.

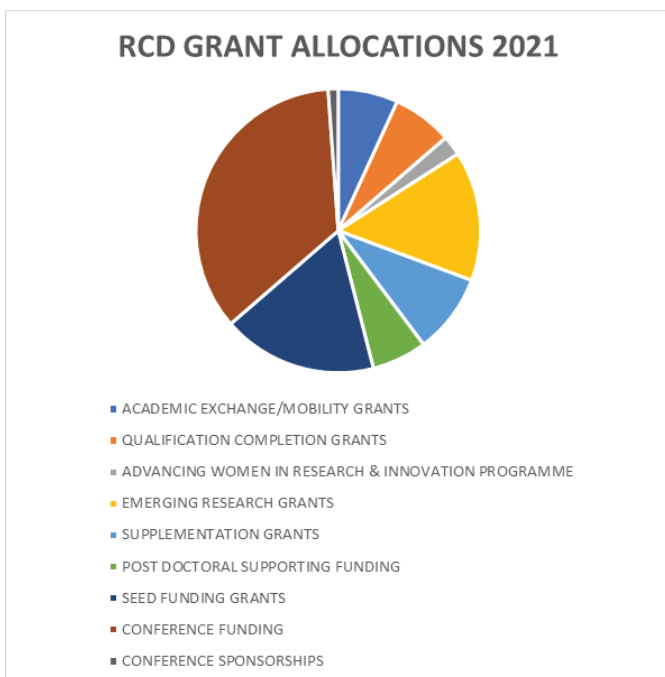
The Keynote speaker at the conference, Professor Rubin Pillay, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, delivered his address on the perspectives of sustainable development in Africa. He titled his presentation "From Jetsons to Jugaad Innovations Defining the Future Sustainability". His address was centered around cost efficient innovation towards achieving a larger goal that will benefit the society, especially within Africa. He encouraged that African scientist and scholars should engage with Jugaad innovation to build a sustainable smart city which would be to benefit of every individual within the society.

The conference also had other keynote presentations and panel discussions on different sub-themes which include: "Partnering with local government: the unexpected marriage that emerged between DUT and the eThekweni Municipality during Covid-19", "Zero-Waste and urban informality: learning in the markets of Warwick", "Development of effective hydrogel nano-composite materials for adsorptive removal of organic dyes in wastewater", "Smart Infrastructures for Sustainable Cities", "Managing Change for Sustainable Vegetable Value Chains", "The need for cross sector and cross-country collaboration in pursuit of all the goals by the year 2030" and "Research opportunities at Mhlatuze Water aiming to address water and wastewater challenges". The presentation and panel discussion involved erudite and recognized researchers such as Professor Innocent Davidson (Durban University of Technology), Professor Siphso Seepe (University of Zululand), Professor Nokuthula Sibiyi (Durban University of Technology), Professor Monique Marks (Durban University of Technology), Professor Motaung Tshwafo (University of South Africa), Dr Kira Erwin (Durban University of Technology), Dr Nthabiseng Motete (Agricultural Research Council), Professor Mpitloane Joseph Hato (University of Limpopo) and Dr Blessing Thokozani Mncube (Umhlatuze Water). The panel discussions were facilitated by Dr Lavern Samuels (Durban University of Technology), Mr Puvendra Akkiah (eThekweni Municipality), Mr Lulamile Mapholoba (City of uMhlatuze Municipality).

TABLE 1 - RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT – INTERNAL FUNDING ALLOCATION 2021

No	Type of Grant	No of Grants Allocated	Total Rand Value of Grants Allocated
UCDP FUNDING			
1	Academic Exchange/Mobility Grants	12	R380 000,00
2	Qualification Completion Grants	12	R527 800,00
3	Advancing Women in Research & Innovation Programme	4	R300 000,00
4	Emerging Research Grants	26	R1 507 250,00
5	Supplementation Grants	16	R1 579 400,00
6	Post-Doctoral Supporting Funding	11	R465 000,00
7	Seed Funding Grants	31	R705 992,00
8	Research Focus Area Funding	27	R3 932 500,00
SUB-TOTAL		139	R 9 397 942,00
DUT INTERNAL FUNDING			
9	Conference Funding	62	R523 000,97
10	Conference Sponsorships	2	R541 794,00
SUBTOTAL		64	R1 064 794,97
GRAND TOTAL		203	R10 462 736,97

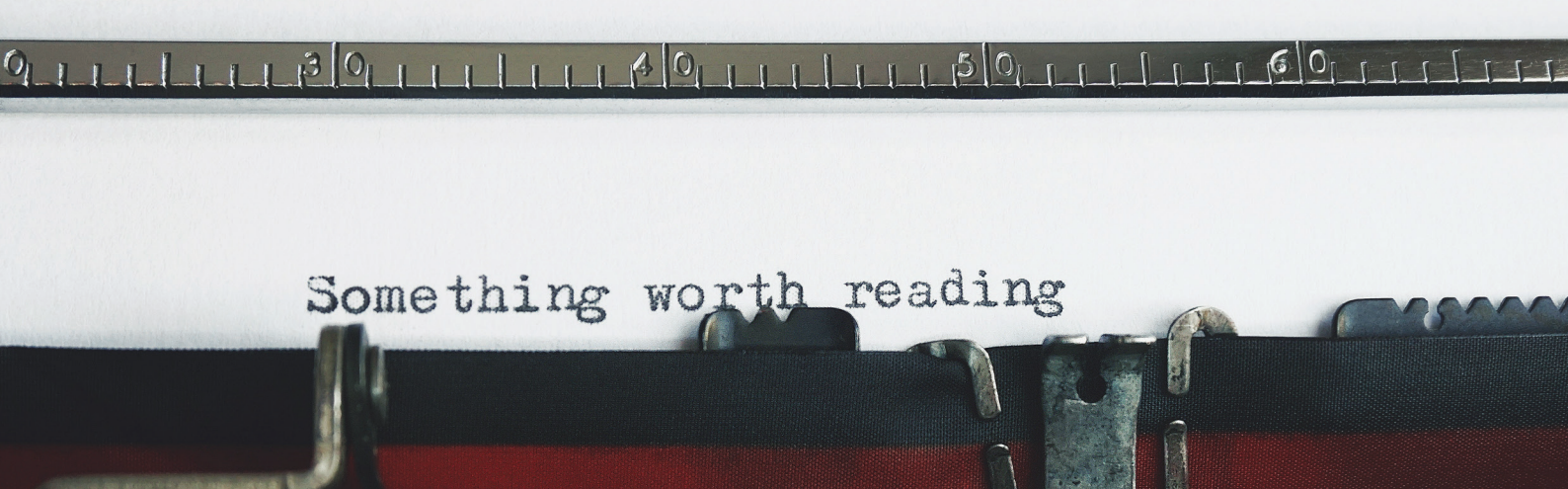
Table 2 – IMPACT OF RCD INTERNAL FUNDING



No of Grants Allocated	203
Total Amount Allocated	R 10 462 736,97

TABLE 3 - WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

No of Workshops/Seminars/Conference Hosted in 2021	41
No of Staff/Students that RSVP'd	3710
Actual Attendance	2337



Something worth reading

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