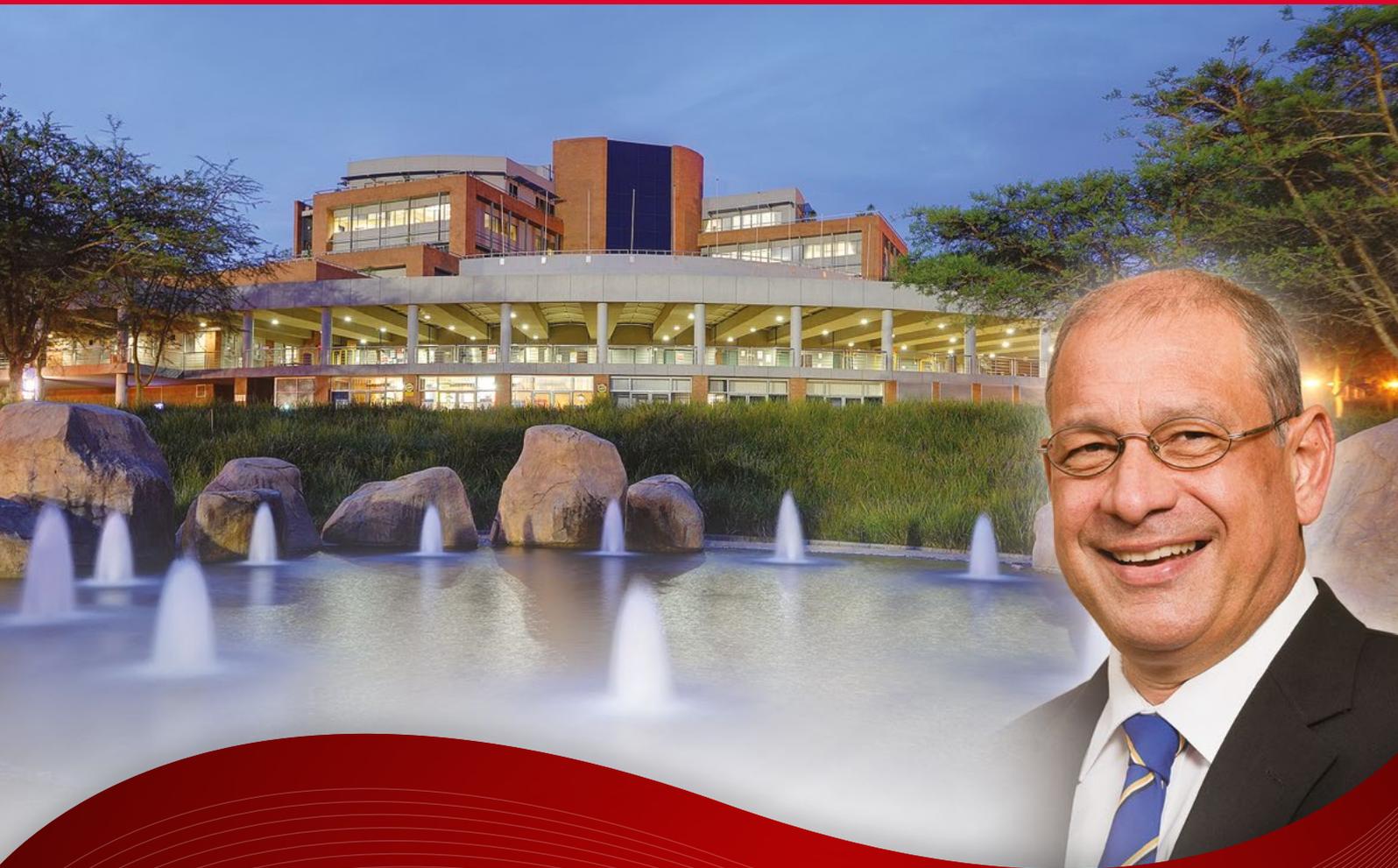




**Tshwane University
of Technology**

We empower people



PROGRAMME

**THE 23RD VICE-CHANCELLOR'S PRESTIGIOUS
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SEMINAR SERIES**

The 23rd Vice-Chancellor's Prestigious Research and Innovation Seminar Series

Date: Wednesday, 27 June 2018

Time: 13:30 – 17:00

Venue: Prestige Auditorium, Building 21, 1st Floor, Pretoria Campus

TOPIC

ONE WORLD - SEVEN THOUSAND LANGUAGES

13:30 - 14:00

Guests arrive (tea and coffee)

Programme Director: Dr Deon du Plessis, HoD, Department of Information Technology

Time	Activity	Presenter
14:00 – 14:15	Welcome and opening	Prof Lourens R van Staden, Vice-Chancellor and Principal
14:15 – 14:30	Introduction of guests	Prof Maredi Mphahlele, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology
14:30 – 15:30	Keynote address	Prof Fausto Giunchiglia
15:30 – 15:45	Discussions	Prof Fausto Giunchiglia and audience
15:45 – 16:00	Vote of Thanks	Dr Ignitia M Motjoloane, Department of Informatics

16:00 – 17:00 Refreshments and networking (Building 21, 1st Floor, Foyer)

ABSTRACT: ONE WORLD - SEVEN THOUSAND LANGUAGES

Till a few years ago the vast majority of the Web consisted of documents and pages written in English. Now the English's relative share of cyberspace has shrunk to around 30% while French, German, Spanish and Chinese have all scaled up into the top 10 languages on line. Overall, among the roughly 7000+ languages which are spoken worldwide – as counted by the Ethnologue project – the top 10 languages make up around 82% of the total content of the Web, with many languages slowly disappearing. In particular, African languages are critically endangered and are disappearing. UNESCO World Atlas of Languages shows that, of 231 languages in the world that have disappeared, 37 are from sub-Saharan Africa. The impact of this phenomenon on the local cultures and economies is pervasive, worldwide.

In his talk, Prof Giunchiglia will present the highlights of a grassroots, community driven project, whose main goal is to alleviate the effects of the phenomenon described above. In a nutshell, the project has the following aims:

- Progressively integrate as many world languages as possible, including African languages. The result of this activity is what is called the Universal Knowledge Core (UKC); a linguistic resource which at the moment integrates 350+ languages and more than 2 million words;
- Put in place the technological, organizational and legal (e.g., copyright) processes which will allow in time the UKC to grow, as a result of a collective process where each culture brings its own language and perspective on the world;
- Make it possible for everybody, and linguists in particular, to use the UKC as the basis for large scale quantitative studies of languages and their diversity;
- Develop the Natural language Processing (NLP) technologies which allow UKC to be used for language aware applications, with a focus on the integration of data originating from multiple sources;
- Use the technologies developed in various pilot studies, the first being the integration of the data, documents and knowledge which exist in the participating Universities.

The talk will end with a demo showing the current state of the project. 

ABRIDGED PROFILE OF PROF FAUSTO GIUNCHIGLIA

Prof Fausto Giunchiglia: Professor of Computer Science, University of Trento, ECCAI fellow, member of the Academia Europea.

Previously studied or held positions at the Universities of Genoa, Stanford, Edinburgh, and at the research center IRST (now FBK, Trento). Research: knowledge management with a focus on managing diversity. Well over 280 publications in journals and conference proceedings; More than 50 invited talks at international events; chair of more than 10 international events, among them: WWW 2021, KSEM 2018, ODBASE 2008, IJCAI 2005, Mobiquitous 2004, Context 2003, AOSE 2002, Coopis 2001, KR&R 2000, FLOC 1999; program committee member of many conferences and workshops in, e.g., artificial Intelligence, data bases, agents, information systems, formal methods, automated reasoning, web; editor or editorial board member of around 10 journals, among them: Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multi-agent Systems, Journal of applied non Classical Logics, Journal of Software Tools for Technology Transfer, Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research. He was a member of the IJCAI Board of Trustees (01-11), President of IJCAI (05-07), President of KR, Inc. (02-04), Advisory Board member of KR, Inc., Steering Committee of the CONTEXT conference. Fausto Giunchiglia has covered the whole spectrum from theory to technology transfer and innovation. Some relevant roles: Member of the Panel "Computer Science and Informatics" of the European Research Council (ERC), "ERC Advanced Grants" (2008 – 2013), Chair of the International Advisory board of the Scottish Informatics and Strategic Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (SICSA) of the 10 Scottish Universities; Coordinator of the task-force in charge of the definition of the Italian National Research Program in ICT; Scientific Coordinator of the Italian Platform for the Future Internet, sponsored by the Italian Industrial Association and the Ministry of Research; Co-founder and first president of GraphiTech, a member of the IniGraphicsNet foundation (2002 – 2005).

In October 2017, he presented a series of lecture at the Research Workshop organized by the Faculty of ICT on Managing African Knowledge in Diversity with Computational Linguistics, aimed at building staff and postgraduate students research capacity for the African Knowledge in Diversity collaborative research project. As part of the collaboration, he currently co-supervise a number of postgraduate students in the faculty. 



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