

2026 SARIMA Conference | WORKSHOP:

— RESEARCH SECURITY



- Tuesday, 8 September 2026
- 09:00 – 16:30
- NH Hotel Johannesburg Sandton, South Africa

Overview:

- This SARIMA pre-conference workshop will provide a focused introduction to the principles and practices of Research Security in an increasingly complex global research environment. Through a series of presentations by national and international experts, the workshop will explore key research security concepts, emerging risks, and institutional responsibilities, while also reflecting on perspectives and expectations of international research collaborators. The session aims to promote shared understanding, practical awareness, and constructive dialogue to support secure, responsible, and sustainable international research partnerships.

During this workshop, the Johannesburg Research Security Statement will be launched as part of the Community of Practice: Research Contracts and Compliance. This Statement will promote shared key principles for research organisations in the Southern African context.

DRAFT Programme Layout:

Section 1:

Research Security: Concepts, Context and Practice

Focus: Introduction to research security, science diplomacy, and institutional approaches and policies, drawing on perspectives from the United Kingdom, South Africa, and selected African institutions.

1. Setting the Scene:

Purpose and scope of the workshop, and an introduction to Research Security:

Dr Cornelia Malherbe, Director: Research Contracts and Compliance, Stellenbosch University

2. Science Diplomacy:

The role of Science Diplomacy in international research collaboration and its relationship to Research Security:

Mr Daan du Toit, Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

3. European Perspectives on Responsible Research Partnerships

Approaches to assessing and managing responsible research partnerships where formal Research Security frameworks may be underdeveloped

Dr Nicolas Vandeviver, Deputy General Representative and/or Mr. Thomas Castrel, General Representative, Delegation of Flanders, Embassy of Belgium

4. Institutional Policies, Practices and Behaviours: UK perspective

Policies, practices and behaviours that protect research, researchers and research institutions from undue foreign influence, interference, or exploitation: the UK experience

Dr Andrew James, Professor of Innovation Management & Policy, Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK

5. The Status of Research Security in Southern Africa

Findings from a SARIMA survey on the current state of Research Security practices in the region

Dr. Cornelia Malherbe, Director: Research Contracts and Compliance, Stellenbosch University

6. Research Security practices at a South African university (to be confirmed)

Perspective on institutional actions, opportunities, and challenges in aligning with international Research Security best practices

Speaker and institution to be confirmed

7. Research security practices at a Southern African (non–South African) university (to be confirmed)

Perspective on institutional actions, opportunities, and challenges in adopting research security measures

Speaker and institution to be confirmed

Section 2:

Research Security: Introduction to the Johannesburg Statement on Research Security

Overview of the Johannesburg Statement on Research Security and its core principles

Dr. Cornelia Malherbe, Director: Research Contracts and Compliance, Stellenbosch University

Section 3:

Research Security: Interactive Case Studies

This interactive session is designed to deepen engagement with practical Research Security challenges. Delegates will be divided into groups and presented with real-world case studies. Each group will analyse a case and provide feedback during a plenary session.

Discussions will be guided by key considerations, including:

- Understanding institutional and geopolitical context
- Alignment with institutional ethics frameworks and risk appetite
- Identification of risks and opportunities
- Mitigation strategies to support executive decision-making

Participants will be encouraged to apply the principles outlined in the **Johannesburg Statement on Research Security** when assessing the case studies.