

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.

Programme:

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, Flanders, South Africa, and Malawi.

9:00-9:30

1. Welcoming and introductions 15 Min

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

Sponsor Introductions:

- **Leanne Jones**, Science and Technology counsellor at the British High Commission in South Africa
- **Thomas Castrel**, General Representative, Delegation of Flanders in Southern Africa, Embassy of Belgium

2. Setting the Scene: 15 Min

Purpose and aim of the pre-conference workshop, and an introduction to the general understanding of Research Security:

Ms Naseema Sunday, Deputy Director: Research Contracts and Compliance, Stellenbosch University

9:30-10:00

3. Research Security: Opportunity and Challenges for African Policy Action 30 Min

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

10:00-10:30

4. How can we ensure research security? The responsibilities of research institutions, research funders and governments in Europe and Flanders 30 Min

Dr Vincent Eechaudt, Senior Policy Advisor – Research security, export control, dual-use research, human rights policy

10:30-11:00

5. VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: Policies, practices and behaviours that protect research, researchers and research institutions from undue foreign influence, interference, or exploitation: the UK experience 30 Min

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

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:00

- 6. A structured approach to Research Security at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHEs) 30 Min**
Mr. Richard Mmadi, Senior Research Training Officer, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi

12:00-12:30

- 7. Perspectives on Research Security from the University of Cape Town, South Africa 30 Min**
Jessica Senekal, Senior Legal Advisor, Department of Research Contracts and Innovation

Section 2:

Research Security: Southern Africa's maturity and adopting principles

Focus: Reflecting on the status of Research Security in Southern Africa and introducing the *Johannesburg Statement on Research Security*.

12:30-13:00

- 8. Status of Research Security in Southern Africa 15 Min**
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
- 9. Introducing the Johannesburg Statement on Research Security 15 Min**
Ms Naseema Sunday, Deputy Director: Research Contracts and Compliance, Stellenbosch University

13:00-14:00 Lunch

Section 3:

Research Security: Interactive Case Studies

Focus: 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.

14:00-14:15

Explaining the approach for the afternoon and introducing the panel:

Ms Naseema Sunday, Deputy Director: Research Contracts and Compliance, Stellenbosch University

Divide into different groups, each with a specific case study and an assigned panel member.

14:15-14:45

Round One case study discussions

14:45-15:15

Round One: Feedback from the groups and panel discussion

15:15-15:45

Round Two case study discussions

15:45-16:15

Round Two Feedback from the groups and panel discussion

16:15-16:30

Wrap up and way forward - Cornelia Malherbe

- We extend our sincere appreciation to Mr Thomas Castrel, General Representative, and Dr Nicolas Vandeviver, both from the Delegation of Flanders in Southern Africa at the Embassy of Belgium, for the financial support that enabled the in-person participation of a distinguished international expert from Ghent University as well as financial support for selected SARIMA members to attend CoP: RC&C activities. This contribution has strengthened the workshop by ensuring the inclusion of internationally recognised expertise and perspectives, thereby enhancing the quality and impact of discussions on research security.
- We also gratefully acknowledge the support of Mr Alex Crook, Head of the Africa Science & Technology Network, and the British High Commission Pretoria, for financial assistance in facilitating the participation of expert speakers in the SARIMA pre-conference workshop on Research Security. His efforts in connecting the workshop with leading international experts have significantly enriched the programme and contributed to meaningful discussions on research security, trusted research partnerships, and the evolving global research landscape.
- We gratefully acknowledge Mr Daan du Toit, Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources at the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), and the DSTI for their generous financial support that has enabled the participation of representatives from historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) in this Research Security Pre-Conference Workshop. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Mr du Toit for sharing his insights and expertise through his presentation, which will contribute significantly to the workshop discussions and the advancement of research security awareness and practice within the Southern African region.



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