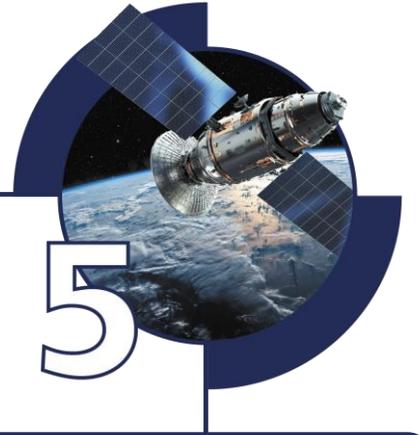




5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array



INVITATION: Working Group

1. Marine Studies, 2. Aviation and Aeronautical Studies, 3. Automotive, 4. Energy, **5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array**, 6. Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation, 7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies), 8. Health Studies/Medicine, 9. Feminist, Womanist, Bosadi Theorisations, 10. Student Support and Co-Curricular Activities.

Working Group Session

You are cordially invited to the 1st 2026 series of CGS-facilitated Catalytic Niche Area Working Group meetings for Space Study and Square Kilometer Array. The theme for series 1 is “Advancing Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity in Catalytic Niche Area Research”. In this series, we will anchor our 2026 approach by reaffirming the commitment to expansive conceptualisations of, and multidisciplinary avenues of participation into, the catalytic niche areas. Our framing for this session is: Space science as infrastructure, geopolitics, ethics, education and development.

Readings:

- Gastrow, M., Oppelt, T. (2018) Big science and human development – what is the connection? *South African Journal of Science* 114 (11/12). <https://sajs.co.za/article/view/5182>
- Velho, R., Gastrow, M., Mason, C., Ulguim, M., Sikhosana, Y. (2024) What is the Space for “Place” in Social Studies of Astronomy? *Minerva* 62. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380879449_What_is_the_Space_for_Place_in_Social_Studies_of_Astronomy
- Berry, S. T. The SKA Approach to Sustainable Research. In *The Economics of Big Science*. https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/42933/1/2021_Book_TheEconomicsOfBigScience.pdf#page=32

Discussion prompts:

- How do large-scale scientific infrastructures reshape national and continental research ecosystems?
- What non-technical disciplines are essential to SKA-related research?
- How can space science contribute to broader societal development goals?
- What social and ethical questions arise alongside scientific excellence?

Tuesday, 17 March 2026
14:00 – 15:00

REGISTER HERE

<https://forms.office.com/r/ZmRn1v9LrJ>

ENQUIRIES:

CGScatalyticnicheareas@unisa.ac.za

FACILITATOR:

Prof Jessica Murray

