

Background

The University of South Africa (UNISA) is one of five universities, as part of the **research network** involved in the *'International Research on the Future of the City Centre Project'*. Other universities involved are Northumbria University and University of Strathclyde in the United Kingdom, Federal da Paraiba University in Brazil, and University of Newcastle in Australia.

By examining present and future scenarios in city centres from a global perspective, the research network will explore how research, practice and policy are being transformed by a number of internal, external and contextual factors and the implications of these changes for future models of the city centre. These include plans, regulations, competition for resources, public and private territories, crossing disciplinary boundaries within the contexts of national and local government strategies, non-government organisations, business and community groups. The network will explore the contemporary city and examine rich and diverse cultural issues. Theory, practice, the character of places and the interests of citizens will be investigated to determine the influences that are shaping the city in the 21st Century, and the implications for a range of disciplines, including planning, engineering, business, health care, education and digital technologies. There is an urgency for the project to address environmental matters such as ecology; social matters such as city cultures, and economic matters such as local employment. There continues to be depletion of natural capital on a huge scale, and a social and economic crisis in which nearly 2.5 billion people in the world live in poverty; and urban spiritual crises where according to the World Health Organization, three times as many people die from suicide as die from homicide or in wars.

In order to interact with key people involved in the four City Centres selected by the network for exchanging ideas and dialogue, the research project is centered on four symposia, one hosted in each of the research cities identified. The first two symposia took place in Newcastle upon Tyne in the United Kingdom as well as the City of Newcastle in Australia. The UNISA Graduate School of Business Leadership is proud to host you, in collaboration with Northumbria University and University of Strathclyde, Federal da Paraiba University and the University of Newcastle, for the third Symposium taking place in the City of Tshwane, South Africa.



Programme

Time	Activity	Responsible person
9.00	Arrival and Registration	All participants
9.10	Opening and setting the scene	Programme Director
9.20	Welcome address	Prof Raphael Mpofo Executive Dean (Acting), UNISA SBL
9.30	Project Background and Reflections from UK & Australia Symposia	Prof Bob Giddings Project Leader Northumbria University (UK)
10.00	Inner City Regeneration Programme: Opportunities & Threats	Dennis Madumo City of Tshwane
10.30	Morning Tea	
10.45	Women Access to the City – the case of Tshwane	Catherine Ndinda Human Sciences Research Council
11.15	The Transformation of our City Center	Prakshna Somai & Ezekiel Ntakirutimana Yeast City Housing NPC
11.45	Q&A and Open Discussion	
12.15	Lunch and Networking	
13.30	Reflection on the morning sessions and introduction to the afternoon sessions	Prof Robert Rogerson Project Co-Leader, University of Strathclyde (UK)
14.00	Opportunities and threats of trading in the City (challenges & successes of informal trading)	Benjamin Manasoe City of Tshwane
14.30	Entry to the City Core: how will the rural poor gain access to the city in future?	Catherine Cross Human Sciences Research Council
15.00	Strengths & Weaknesses of tourism in the CBD	Taubie Motlhabane City of Tshwane
15.30	Afternoon Tea	
15.45	Transforming the city through people and create dynamic and real community assets	Mareli Wassenaar Executive Director: Capital Collective
16.15	Q&A and Round Table Discussion/	All Presenters
16.45	Summary and Closure	