



Karoo FUTURES

Astronomy & its impacts

DATE

21 November 2019
8:30am - 1:30pm
Light lunch included

VENUE

Auditorium,
South African
Astronomical Observatory
<http://bit.ly/findOAD>

REGISTRATION

Compulsory but free
Please register at
www.astro4dev.org/karoo-futures/



This symposium marks the launch of the special issue 'Karoo Futures: Astronomy in place and space' of the Journal of Southern African Studies. The special issue is the result of an interdisciplinary dialogue between scholars in the social sciences and humanities on astronomy in South Africa, and particularly on the South Africa's involvement in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope, post-apartheid's most ambitious investment in big science.

Major themes addressed in the special issue include the relationship between space, place and time in the configuration of the Karoo as a major astronomy site; the role of the state; and the politics of knowledge, including how to understand the cultural artefacts produced by the study of the cosmos.

An important question raised in the Introduction to the special issue, which the discussion at the symposium is expected to take forward, concerns 'the challenges of undertaking critical, inter-disciplinary work across the conceptual, methodological and institutional boundaries that separate social scientists ... from astronomers and physical scientists'. The symposium is aimed at broadening the dialogue to include practitioners and managers in the astronomy community, and offers a space for vigorous, engaged debate on these and related concerns.



Provisional Programme

08:30 Registration and coffee	11:00 Recommendations from research
09:00 Panel discussion on themes	12:00 Recommendations from participants
10:00 Methodology discussion	13:00 Lunch and optional tour of SAAO
10:30 Tea	14:00 Optional discussion time



More information

Kevin Govender
kg@astro4dev.org

Cherryl Walker
cjwalker@sun.ac.za

www.astro4dev.org/karoo-futures