



African Postgraduate Research Symposium 2026
Wednesday 2 September | 11.00am – 2.00pm
WG607

The African Postgraduate Research Symposium aims to provide a platform for emerging scholars to showcase their research, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, contribute to knowledge exchange, and be known to and recognized as part of the AUT academic community. The Symposium is focused on supporting postgraduate students to highlight their research skills while networking with peers, academics and colleagues.

Please note that the programme might be subject to slight amendments. The Symposium begins promptly at 11am. We would really appreciate it if you could arrive 15 minutes before the Symposium begins and stay for the duration to support our students.

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| 11.00 – 11.02 | Karakia – Francis Leaf |
| 11.02 – 11.05 | Welcome – Dr Elba Ramirez (Ms of Ceremonies) |
| 11.05 – 11.15 | Opening Remarks – Deputy Vice Chancellor Research Professor Mark Orams (introduced by Janie van Woerden): <i>From Africa to Aotearoa: The Power of Knowledge Across Borders.</i> |
| 11.15 – 11.25 | Opening Address – Tekweni Chataira (introduced by Janie van Woerden): <i>Postgraduate Journey: Reflections from a PhD Graduate-Designate.</i> |
| 11.25 – 11.40 | Jude Alao: <i>Beyond a Blocked Nose: Acoustic Nasal Therapy, Breathing, Immunity and Nasal Microbes in Hay Fever and Chronic Sinus Disease</i> |
| 11.40 – 11.55 | Aklilu Habte Hailegebireal: <i>Global Incidence, risk factors, and adverse outcomes of fetal malposition at birth: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of observational studies</i> |
| 11.55 – 12.10 | Avwerosuoghene Onobrakpeya: <i>Drivers of Antenatal Vaccine Uptake in Migrant, Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Populations: A Mixed Methods Systematic Review</i> |
| 12.10 – 12.20 | Beth Ketema: <i>Understanding Oral Health Impacts and Priorities for Ethiopians with Refugee Backgrounds in Aotearoa New Zealand</i> |
| 12.20 – 12.35 | Facilitated Discussion & Reflections – Dr Hammed Fatoyinbo |
| 12.35 – 12.55 | Light lunch & networking (20 mins) |
| 12.55 – 1.10 | Gogo George Ntor: <i>Reimagining the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) as a Human-Centred Framework for Autonomous Maritime Operations</i> |
| 1.10 – 1.25 | Adeola Ojo: <i>Professional Dispositions in Software Engineering Capstones: Formation, Enactment and the Conditions of Practice</i> |
| 1.25 – 1.40 | Fred Kofi Boateng: <i>An examination of the design architecture of a decolonial, reflexive study of STEM women faculty research practices in Ghana</i> |
| 1.40 – 1.55 | Ifeanyi Jacobs: <i>Bioimpedance Measurement to Enhance Physical Activity Recognition</i> |
| 1.55 – 2.10 | Facilitated Discussion & Reflections – Mekanaka Tuwe |
| 2.10 – 2.15 | Closing Remarks – Savine Sander |