



NEWSLETTER

JULY
2026

WELCOME

Prof Sue Webb (Co-Director)

Welcome to the July edition of the DSTI-NRF CIMERA Newsletter.

As we reach the midpoint of 2026, it is encouraging to reflect on the progress made across our CIMERA community. The first half of the year has been marked by exciting research achievements, international collaborations, student mobility, and opportunities for professional development. It has been particularly rewarding to see our students and researchers representing CIMERA both locally and internationally, demonstrating the quality and impact of the work being undertaken across our partner institutions.

One of the most important aspects of research is ensuring that our discoveries extend beyond the laboratory and into society. Research impact is not measured solely by publications, but also by our ability to communicate science effectively, build meaningful collaborations, and inspire future generations of researchers. Whether through conferences, public engagement, podcasts, media interviews, or initiatives such as our Science Writing Competition, research achieves its greatest impact when it is accessible, engaging, and meaningful to audiences beyond academia.

As we look ahead, preparations are well underway for the DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Research Colloquium, which will take place on **16 - 17 November 2026 at the Wits Anglo American Digital Dome**. I encourage all eligible students to submit their abstracts before the **14 September 2026** deadline and take advantage of this opportunity to present your research, receive valuable feedback, and engage with fellow researchers, academics, and industry professionals.

I am also excited about the launch of this year's **DSTI-NRF CIMERA Science Writing Competition** and the introduction of the **CIMERA Corner Podcast**, two initiatives that reflect our commitment to making geoscience more accessible and engaging for diverse audiences. Communicating complex scientific ideas in a clear, engaging, and relatable way is an increasingly valuable skill, and I encourage all our students to participate in these opportunities to share their research beyond the academic community. Initiatives such as these not only strengthen research communication but also demonstrate the broader relevance and impact of geoscience in society.

To our students, researchers, academic staff, alumni, and partners, thank you for your continued dedication and contributions to the CIMERA community. Your achievements are what make this Centre of Excellence such a vibrant and collaborative network.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and look forward to celebrating many more milestones together in the months ahead.

Best wishes,

Prof Susan Webb

Co-Director, DSTI-NRF CIMERA



CIMERA Supports IGC 2028 | 38th International Geological Congress

DSTI-NRF CIMERA is proud to be a Supporting Organisation for the **38th International Geological Congress (IGC 2028)**, taking place in **Calgary, Canada, from 12–20 August 2028**.

Under the theme **Geosciences for Humanity**, IGC 2028 will bring together geoscientists, researchers, students, industry leaders and policymakers from around the world to address some of society's most pressing challenges through the Earth sciences.

We encourage South African researchers, students and geoscience professionals to engage with this global event and explore opportunities to contribute to scientific sessions, workshops, field excursions and future abstract submissions.

Visit www.igc2028canada.org to learn more and join the mailing list.



Coming Soon: CIMERA Corner Podcast Launches August



Science affects our daily lives in more ways than we often realise, from the minerals in our phones and renewable energy technologies to the resources that drive economic development. Yet scientific research is not always easy to understand or accessible to the broader public.

Launching **August 2026**, **CIMERA Corner** aims to bridge that gap.

As the official podcast of DSTI-NRF CIMERA, **CIMERA Corner** will bring geoscience conversations out of the lecture hall and into an engaging, accessible format for a wider audience. Through discussions with researchers, students, industry experts, and partners, the podcast will unpack complex scientific topics in a way that is relevant, relatable, and easy to understand.

Our inaugural episode will feature DSTI-NRF CIMERA Director, **Prof Nikki Wagner**, and Co-Director, **Prof Sue Webb**, who will introduce listeners to CIMERA, its impact, and why geoscience matters to society.

Whether you are a student, researcher, industry professional, or simply curious about the world beneath your feet, CIMERA Corner invites you to join the conversation.

CIMERA Corner – Where geoscience sounds different.

Advancing Knowledge in Process Mineralogy and Geometallurgy

DSTI-NRF CIMERA was pleased to support the **Process Mineralogy and Geometallurgy of PGE-Reefs in the Bushveld Complex** short course hosted at the Helmholtz Institute Freiberg for Resource Technology (HIF), Freiberg, Germany.

Presented by **Prof. Bertus Smith** from the University of Johannesburg, the intensive two-day programme brought together MSc and PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and industry professionals to explore key aspects of **platinum**

group element (PGE) mineralisation within the Bushveld Complex.

Topics covered included the **geological framework of the Bushveld Complex and its ore deposits, the geology and mineralogy of the PGE reefs of the Rustenburg Layered Suite, as well as the process mineralogy and geometallurgy of the Merensky Reef, UG2 Reef, and Platereef through practical case studies.**

The short course provided an important platform for knowledge exchange, skills development, and collaboration between academia and industry. Initiatives such as these contribute to CIMERA's mission of advancing integrated mineral and energy resource analysis while strengthening international research partnerships and developing the next generation of geoscience professionals.



CIMERA-Supported Research Published in Nature Communications

DSTI-NRF CIMERA is proud to celebrate the publication of new CIMERA-supported research in **Nature Communications**, one of the world's leading scientific journals.

The paper, titled **"Olivine and Fe-isotopes in kimberlites indicate an iron-rich substrate for CLIPPIR and other sub-lithospheric diamonds"**, provides important new insights into the deep Earth processes associated with diamond formation and the composition of Earth's mantle.

Congratulations to lead authors **Geoffrey H. Howarth** and **Andrea Giuliani**, together with **Merrily M. Tau**, **Ronghua Cai**, and **Jingao Liu**, on this outstanding achievement. Their work contributes significantly to advancing

our understanding of our planet from the surface to the deepest mantle and showcases the impact of collaborative geoscience research supported through CIMERA. Merrily Tau was funded by CIMERA for his Msc (Wits) and PhD (UCT), and has now joined the academic staff at US.

We commend the research team on this important contribution to the global scientific community and look forward to seeing the continued impact of their work.

Read the publication: [Olivine and Fe-isotopes in kimberlites indicate an iron-rich substrate for CLIPPIR and other sub-lithospheric diamonds](#)

Advancing Global Geoscience Collaboration Through ICDP

Advancing Global Geoscience Collaboration Through ICDP

Prof. Nicola Wagner recently participated in the **2026 Executive Committee Meeting of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP)**, hosted by the Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología-CSIC in Seville, Spain.

A highlight of the meeting was a field excursion to the **Riotinto Mining District** within the Iberian Pyrite Belt (IPB), including a visit to the Cerro Colorado Mine. *The IPB is the largest sulfur-rich crustal anomaly on Earth and the world's most prolific metallogenic province for volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS) deposits, hosting nearly half of all known world-class examples.*

Delegates also visited the source of the famous **Tinto River (Red River)**, whose striking red waters have a pH of between 2.2 and 2.6. *It is one of the most extensive and extreme acid-generating environments on Earth, resulting from the natural exposure and oxidation of massive sulfide deposits and greatly intensified by long-term mining activity.* Despite these conditions, the river supports a remarkable ecosystem of extremophilic microorganisms sustained by the acidic waters of the Tinto River basin.

The ICDP supports scientific drilling projects that seek to address some of the most important questions in Earth science, including continental evolution, geohazards, georesources, geoenergy, and climate change. This year also marks **30 years of the ICDP**. Since its establishment in 1996, the programme has invested more than **US\$300 million** in scientific drilling projects across all continents.

South Africa has benefited significantly from ICDP membership and funding, with **three new projects** currently at various stages of development. The programme has also recently been invited to apply for a **UNESCO Chair**, which will be based in Potsdam, Germany.

The **ICDP Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)** is currently seeking new members with expertise in hydrogeology, marine palynology, sedimentology, and Neogene geochemistry. Interested researchers are encouraged to contact Prof. Wagner for further information.

A sister organisation to the ICDP is the **International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP3)**, an international marine research collaboration that explores Earth's history, climate, and geodynamics through scientific ocean drilling.

As far as Prof. Wagner is aware, South Africa has not yet actively participated in this programme, presenting a potential opportunity for future engagement by the local geoscience community. Researchers interested in exploring opportunities within IODP3 are welcome to contact Prof. Wagner.



CIMERA University Tour 2026: University of Johannesburg

The DSTI-NRF CIMERA University Tour continued with its second stop at the **University of Johannesburg's Department of Geology**, where the CIMERA team had the opportunity to engage directly with students and academic staff.

These visits provide valuable opportunities to strengthen relationships with our partner institutions, gain insight into ongoing research activities, and

connect with the talented students who form part of the CIMERA network. Meeting students within their academic environment allows us to better understand their research journeys, celebrate their achievements, and identify opportunities for further support and collaboration.

We look forward to continuing our university visits and engaging with more members of the CIMERA community throughout the year.



Connecting with Future Geoscientists: University of Limpopo Visit

DSTI-NRF CIMERA recently welcomed staff and students from the **University of Limpopo's Department of Geology and Mining** for a short visit and engagement session.

The visit provided an opportunity for students to learn more about CIMERA, engage in informal discussions, and ask questions about postgraduate studies, research opportunities, and careers

within the geosciences. It was encouraging to see the curiosity, enthusiasm, and engagement from the students throughout the visit.

Visits such as these play an important role in fostering curiosity, encouraging collaboration, and inspiring the next generation of geoscientists. DSTI-NRF CIMERA values opportunities to connect directly with students and academic partners and

remains committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen geoscience education, research, and collaboration across South Africa.

We thank the University of Limpopo for the visit and look forward to future engagements with our partner institutions.



From Core to Community: Tell the Story Behind the Science

From Core to Community | Writing Beyond the Journal Workshop

Thinking about entering the DSTI-NRF CIMERA Science Writing Competition but not sure where to start?

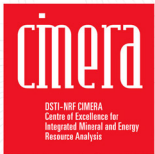
Join **From Core to Community | Writing Beyond the Journal Workshop**, a practical and interactive session designed to help you transform your geoscience research into engaging stories for a broader audience.

Together, we'll explore the art of science storytelling, uncover the narrative within your research, and learn how to communicate complex geoscience concepts in ways that are clear, compelling, and impactful without compromising scientific integrity.

Participants will discover techniques for developing strong storylines, crafting captivating introductions and titles, writing with a general audience in mind, and translating technical research into accessible, meaningful narratives.

Whether you're entering the competition or simply looking to strengthen your science communication skills, this workshop will equip you with the tools and confidence to write beyond the journal and tell the story behind the science.

Details will be shared through CIMERA communication channels.



FROM CORE TO COMMUNITY

Writing Beyond the Journal Workshop

Tell the story behind your science.

Learn how to translate your geoscience research into engaging stories that connect with people beyond academia.

Thinking about entering the DSTI-NRF CIMERA Science Writing Competition but not sure where to start?

Join **From Core to Community | Writing Beyond the Journal Workshop**, an interactive session designed to help you unlock the story within your research.

Through practical exercises and creative thinking, you'll learn how to communicate complex geoscience concepts in ways that are engaging, accessible, and meaningful without compromising scientific integrity.

Whether you're entering the competition or simply looking to strengthen your science communication skills, this workshop will help you think differently about your research and write with greater creativity and impact.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Think more creatively about communicating science
- Write for a general audience
- Create engaging openings and titles
- Reduce technical jargon
- Structure a compelling narrative

**DATE**
31 August 2026 (session 1)
04 September (session 2)

**TIME**
10h00

**ONLINE**
Virtual session

Click [HERE](#) to register or scan the QR Code





STUDENT NEWS

Advancing Student Learning Through Virtual Geological Field Trips | Dr. Charl Cilliers

Dr Charl Cilliers and colleagues at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) continue to drive innovation in geoscience education through the development of **Virtual Geological Field Trips (VFTs)**. Designed to prepare students for fieldwork, improve their understanding of geological processes, and showcase South Africa's geoheritage, these interactive resources are becoming an important complement to traditional field-based learning.

Over the past year, the team has expanded its suite of VFTs hosted on UWC's iKamva Learning Management System. Recent additions include a [Cape Flats Nature Reserve VFT](#) developed for first-year Environmental and Water Science students, an updated [Laingsburg VFT](#) to prepare Honours students for geological mapping in the Karoo, and dedicated virtual field trips to [Tafelberg Road](#), [Sea Point](#) and [Kloof Neck Quarry](#), which support large undergraduate geology classes where traditional field excursions are not always feasible.

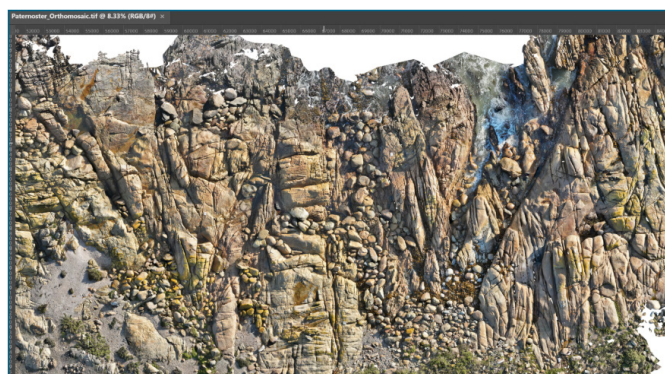
The impact of these virtual learning experiences has been remarkable. Assessments involving more than 200 first-year students demonstrated significant improvements in learning outcomes following exposure to the VFTs, reinforcing their value as effective tools for self-directed learning and student preparation. The team is currently preparing a research manuscript documenting these findings for submission to an international journal.

Innovation continues beyond the classroom. The team recently undertook fieldwork at **Cape Columbine**, where high-resolution drone imagery is being used to create detailed 3D geological models and digital mapping resources to support postgraduate research and geological interpretation. This work will form part of future virtual field trips and expand opportunities for digital geological mapping.

Screenshot of a 2D orthomosaic of a portion of a 3D model of Cape Granites at Cape Columbine (aerial view) made up of almost 10 500 images taken with a drone, and stitched together using Agisoft Metashape Professional ®.

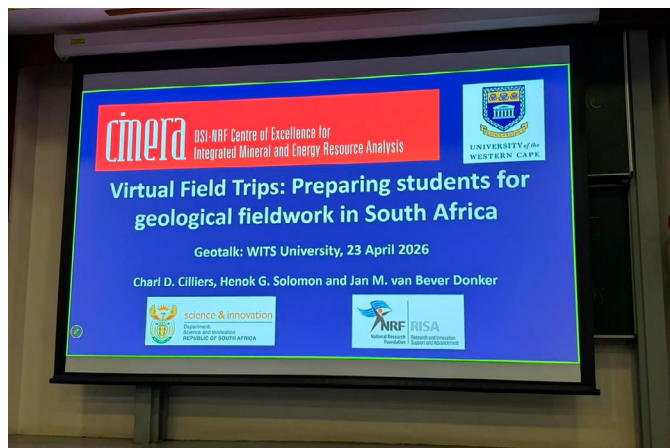
As part of sharing this work with the broader geoscience community, **Dr Cilliers and Prof. van Bever Donker** recently presented the project during the **Wits School of Geosciences GeoTalks** series.

Their innovative approach demonstrates how virtual technologies can enhance teaching and learning by complementing traditional fieldwork and creating more accessible, engaging learning experiences for students. While developed within the geosciences, the concept has broader applications across disciplines such as environmental science, geography, archaeology, and urban planning.



The work highlights the growing role of digital technologies in education and reflects the innovative research and thought leadership emerging from the CIMERA network. We congratulate Dr. Cilliers and Prof. van Bever Donker on advancing new approaches to experiential learning and look forward to following the continued development of this exciting initiative.

Looking ahead, the team is also preparing to host the **2027 Virtual Geoscience Conference** at the University of the Western Cape, in collaboration with colleagues from Lausanne, Switzerland, further positioning South Africa as a leader in digital innovation in geoscience education.



GRADUATIONS | Advancing the Next Generation of Geoscientists

DSTI-NRF CIMERA congratulates the following graduates on the successful completion of their postgraduate studies. We are proud to celebrate their achievements and look forward to their continued contributions to geoscience research, industry and society.

Johannes Malebati

MSc in Geology | University of the Free State

Project title: In situ multiple sulfur isotope analysis by SIMS of pyrrhotite, pentlandite and chalcopyrite in the Flatreef, northern limb, Bushveld Complex



Dimakatso Hlahla

MSc in Geology | University of the Witwatersrand

Project title: Investigation of the ore mineralisation styles and alteration zones of Messina copper deposits



Tshimangadzo Ndou

MSc in Geology | University of the Free State

Project title: Data Transformation for Geostatistical Simulation of Grade of Correlated Metals in Complex Deposit



Advancing Research Through International Collaboration | Mphanama Thangeni

DSTI-NRF CIMERA was proud to support PhD candidate **Mphanama Thangeni** from the **University of Venda in South Africa** during a three-month research and training visit to Germany.

Hosted by the **University of Göttingen and Technische Hochschule Ostwestfalen-Lippe (TH OWL)**, the visit provided specialised

training in Cathodoluminescence and Fluid Inclusion analysis, as well as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing techniques. These advanced skills and analytical methods will contribute directly to Mphanama's **PhD research on copper sulphide mineralisation within the Mutale Copper Fields in Limpopo.**

Beyond the technical training, the visit strengthened international research collaborations, expanded professional networks, and provided valuable exposure to world-class facilities and expertise.

DSTI-NRF CIMERA congratulates Mphanama on this achievement and looks forward to the scientific outputs and research impact that will result from this international collaboration.



CIMERA-supported Student Awarded Prestigious Corstorphine Medal

DSTI-NRF CIMERA congratulates **Ms Lanco Mogudi** on being awarded the **Corstorphine Medal** by the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) on **16 July 2026**. The medal recognises an exceptionally meritorious MSc dissertation in the geological sciences completed at a southern African university.

Ms Mogudi completed her MSc at the **University of Johannesburg** in 2025, graduating with a final mark of **78%**. Her dissertation, *The Paleoproterozoic Negaunee Iron Formation of the Marquette Range Supergroup in Minnesota, United States of America: A Case Study in Post-Great Oxidation Event Iron Formation Deposition*, was supervised by **Prof. Bertus Smith** (University of Johannesburg) and **Prof. Jens Gutzmer** (Helmholtz Institute Freiberg for Resource Technology, Germany), reflecting the strong international collaboration between the two institutions.

The research was supported by **DSTI-NRF CIMERA**, the **NRF Free-standing Bursary Scheme**, and the **Palaeproterozoic Mineralisation (PPM) Research Group** at the University of Johannesburg.



Congratulations to Ms Mogudi on this outstanding achievement. We are proud to have supported her research journey and look forward to her continued contributions to geoscience.

Advancing Expertise | Gabrielle Van Heerden

DSTI-NRF CIMERA was proud to support **Gabrielle Van Heerden (Ficq)** in attending the **Short Course in SEM-Based Automated Mineralogy: Fundamentals and Applications in Geosciences** in Freiberg, Germany.

Gabrielle serves as the **Instrument Scientist** at the University of Johannesburg, where she is responsible for the operation of the **Mineral Liberation Analyser (MLA)**. The course provided an opportunity to further develop specialised skills, engage with international experts, and strengthen global research collaborations in automated mineralogy.

Opportunities such as these play an important role in developing the next generation of geoscience researchers and professionals while strengthening the technical expertise available to the broader geoscience community. Colleagues and students interested in learning more about the MLA and its applications are encouraged to reach out to Gabrielle for further information.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Moyagabo Kenneth Rapetsoa



Advancing Geophysical Innovation Across Africa

From postgraduate researcher to geophysical specialist, **Dr Moyagabo Kenneth Rapetsoa** continues to make his mark in the field of applied geophysics.

After completing his **PhD in Geophysics** at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2024,

Dr Rapetsoa now serves as a **Specialist in Geophysical Research and Computational Instrumentation** at the University. His work focuses on developing innovative geophysical solutions for mineral exploration by integrating seismic imaging with magnetic, resistivity, and passive geophysical methods to better understand complex geological environments.

With experience spanning both academia and industry, Dr Rapetsoa has contributed to exploration and geophysical survey projects across several African countries, applying advanced technologies to support mineral exploration and mining.

Reflecting on his journey, he shares:

"My time at the University of the Witwatersrand played a major role in shaping both my academic and professional journey. The exposure to advanced research, industry collaborations, and multidisciplinary problem-solving provided me with a strong foundation to contribute meaningfully to the geoscience field across Africa."

DSTI-NRF CIMERA congratulates Dr Rapetsoa on his achievements and is proud to celebrate the continued success of our alumni as they advance geoscience research and innovation across the continent.

Research Area

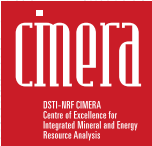
Geophysical Research &
Computational Instrumentation

Current Position

Specialist in Geophysical Research and
Computational Instrumentation
University of the Witwatersrand

Connect with Dr Moyagabo Kenneth Rapetsoa

- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rapetsoamk01/>
- **ResearchGate:** <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Moyagabo-Rapetsoa>
- **Google Scholar:** <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&tzom=-120&user=nmTdOusAAAAJ>
- **ORCID:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3275-8994>



2026 SCIENCE WRITING COMPETITION

MY SCIENCE IN YOUR WORLD

We challenge geoscience students to translate their academic research to be applicable for a general audience. Submit your word document entry in English to cimera@uj.ac.za by **6 November 2026**.

- Length:** 600–800 words
- Include a **catchy title** and use a **creative writing style**
- Open to all **DSTI-NRF CIMERA** supported students and postdoctoral research fellows
- Cash prize** awarded to the top three entries

TELL THE STORY BEHIND THE SCIENCE.

CLOSING DATE
6 NOVEMBER 2026



Science Writing Competition 2026

The DSTI-NRF CIMERA Science Writing Competition 2026 is now open, inviting students to explore the theme ***My Science in Your World***.

This year's competition encourages participants to tell compelling stories about the role of geoscience in society, highlighting how research connects with communities, the environment, resources, and everyday life. Whether through personal reflection, creative storytelling, or science communication, students are encouraged to share their unique perspectives and experiences.

Topic: *My Science in Your World*

Closing Date: 6 November 2026

More information and submission details will be shared through CIMERA communication channels.

DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Research Colloquium 2026: Invitation & Sponsorship Opportunities

The DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Research Colloquium 2026 will take place on **16 - 17 November 2026** at the **Wits Anglo American Digital Dome, Johannesburg**.

This flagship event brings together postgraduate students, researchers, industry professionals, and academic partners to showcase cutting-edge research, foster collaboration, and explore innovations shaping the future of integrated mineral and energy resource analysis.

We invite members of the geoscience community to save the date and join us for two days of insightful presentations, networking opportunities, and meaningful engagement.

Organisations interested in supporting the next generation of geoscientists are also invited to explore our sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorship provides a unique platform to connect with emerging talent, strengthen industry visibility, and demonstrate commitment to advancing research and innovation within the mineral and energy sectors.



DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Research COLLOQUIUM 2026

YOU'RE INVITED

We are pleased to invite you to the DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Research Colloquium 2026.

16 – 17 November 2026
Wits Anglo American Digital Dome

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Join us for two days of insightful presentations, collaboration, and networking as we showcase cutting-edge research and innovation in integrated mineral and energy resource analysis.

COLLOQUIUM HIGHLIGHTS

- Cutting-edge research presentations
- Collaboration and networking opportunities
- Insights into mineral and energy resource innovation
- Engagement with industry, academia, and policy leaders

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

16 November 2026

CIMERA Collaborator Presentations
Posters & Networking Event

17 November 2026

CIMERA Collaborator Presentations
Soft Skills Workshop

PARTNER WITH IMPACT

We invite organisations to sponsor the DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Research Colloquium 2026 and position themselves at the forefront of mineral and energy innovation.

WHY SPONSOR?

- ACCESS EMERGING TALENT**
Connect with a pipeline of high-potential postgraduate students, researchers, and future industry leaders.
- ENHANCE STRATEGIC VISIBILITY**
Showcase your brand to a targeted audience of academia, industry experts, and policy stakeholders.
- GAIN INSIGHT INTO RESEARCH & INNOVATION**
Engage directly with cutting-edge research shaping the future of integrated mineral and energy resource analysis.

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING?

Contact us to explore sponsorship opportunities and tailor a package aligned with your organisation's goals.

✉ imodisha@uj.ac.za



We look forward to welcoming you to the DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Research Colloquium 2026.

Together, let's shape the future of mineral and energy resource innovation.

For more information about attending or sponsoring the colloquium, please contact the CIMERA team.

REAL3SE International Mobility Programme

DSTI-NRF CIMERA is proud to be part of the **REAL3SE** international mobility collaboration under the **HORIZON-MSCA-2025-SE-01** programme. Project title: **Bridging Igneous Petrology and Machine Learning through Intersectoral, Interdisciplinary, and**

Intercontinental Staff Exchanges. We will soon invite applications from interested staff and students for the next round of secondment opportunities, offering research stays at **2 of the 16 participating universities, namely UNIPG (Italy) and SOLEIL (France).** We will also be

receiving secondments from UNIPG (Italy), KUL (Belgium) and LUH (Germany).

Keep an eye on future CIMERA communications for the official call for applications.

South Africa Presidential PhD Programme

DSTI-NRF CIMERA through UJ has been nominated to proceed to the final round of the **South Africa Presidential PhD Programme under the Just Energy Transition theme. The proposed project title is "Advancing South Africa's Just**

Energy Transition Through Strategic Development of Battery and Critical Mineral Value Chains", **abbreviated to SAJET-BaCE.** Discussions with the proposed collaborators will take place in the coming weeks, and once funding is confirmed,

CIMERA will issue a call for PhD candidates to commence in 2027. Further information will be shared in due course.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



AFRICAN EXPLORATION SHOWCASE

18 & 19 NOVEMBER 2026

JHB COUNTRY CLUB

AES aims to provide an opportunity for professionals in the industry to be informed about new African exploration projects and current developments. It is an ideal opportunity to learn more about deposits that could potentially add significant economic value to the continent's pipeline.

Our speakers are from major and junior mining companies, and from large consulting companies to independents, which should ensure an interesting event.

- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Exhibition
- Networking
- Professional Development

GSSA African Exploration Showcase (AES) 2026

DSTI-NRF CIMERA is proud to be an annual sponsor of the **Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA)** and an exhibitor at the **African Exploration Showcase (AES)**.

This year, CIMERA has secured **30 fully funded registrations** for CIMERA-funded students to attend the event. Students who are interested are encouraged to submit their names to **Ms. Itumeleng Modisha** at **imodisha@uj.ac.za** as soon as possible.

Taking place immediately after the **DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Research Colloquium**, the AES provides an excellent opportunity for students travelling from outside Gauteng to extend their stay in Johannesburg and attend one of South Africa's flagship geoscience events.

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 2026

- 23 July: UJFM Interview Broadcast
- July: CIMERA Corner Podcast Launch

AUGUST 2026

- 3 August: DSTI-NRF CIMERA Colloquium Registration Opens
- TBC: CIMERA Corner Ep.1
- TBC: DSTI-NRF CIMERA From Core to Community | Writing Beyond the Journal Workshop

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 9 -10 September: Litchenburg 100 conference
- 14 September: DSTI-NRF CIMERA Abstract Submission Deadline
- 21 - 25 September: Wits Plus Critical Raw Materials Short Course

OCTOBER 2026

- 5 - 9 October: Earth Observation masterclass

NOVEMBER 2026

- 16 -17 November: DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Research Colloquium
- 17 November: DSTI-NRF CIMERA Annual Soft Skills Workshop
- 17 November: Science Writing Competition Winners Announced
- 19 -18 November: GSSA African Exploration Showcase 2026

OTHER EVENTS ATTENDED

World of Coal Ash

Prof. Nicola Wagner and her postdoctoral fellow, **Dr Sanki Biswas**, presented at the biennial **World of Coal Ash (WoCA)** conference held in Lexington, Kentucky, USA, in May 2026.

Their presentation, *Rare Earth Element Distribution and Mineral Hosts in Coal-Derived Ash from South African Power Stations*, was well received during

the session on critical minerals in coal ash and generated considerable interest among delegates.

Organised by the **American Coal Ash Association (ACAA)** and the **University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER)**, WoCA is a leading international forum focused on the science, applications, and

sustainability of coal combustion products (CCPs) and gasification products. The 2026 event marked the 11th joint biennial meeting, bringing together researchers, industry representatives, and practitioners from around the world.



GET INVOLVED | CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions to our newsletter

- Student achievements
- Alumni updates
- Conference participation
- Publications
- Awards
- Fieldwork photographs
- Outreach activities

Contact:

Itumeleng Modisha
Marketing and Events Coordinator

Email:

imodisha@uj.ac.za

Follow:

#DSTINRFCIMERA
#CIMERA



CLOSING REMARKS

As we look ahead to the second half of 2026, we remain committed to advancing geoscience research, strengthening collaborations, and creating opportunities for students and researchers across the CIMERA network.

Thank you to our students, alumni, researchers, partners, and stakeholders for your continued contributions and support. We look forward to sharing more achievements, opportunities, and milestones with you in the months ahead.

Until the next edition, *keep exploring, discovering, and advancing geoscience.*

Our Impact Since 2015

