

The University Teaching and Learning Office

Cordially invites you to the

SAFEGUARDING QUALITY AND ETHICS IN AN ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WEBINAR



28 October 2025



14h00 – 15h30



Virtual Via Zoom

Webinar Overview

What makes a higher education higher? What makes a university a public good, as is our responsibility according to the White Paper of 1997? Do we indeed nurture critical citizens, as that same policy indicates? If we fail to sufficiently grapple with these questions, we can easily become simply training centres responsible for credentialing potential employees for industry. And failure to grapple with our roles and responsibilities as higher education makes us especially vulnerable to the darker aspects of Generative AI.

In this session, Sioux urges us to revisit the purposes of higher education and to hold these tight as we reflect on how AI is being used in the academy. She briefly considers the multiple ways in which GenAI can enhance teaching and learning, research, and community engagement before looking at how GenAI can constrain these core functions. She reflects on how explicitly claiming our role as a public good nurturing critical citizens can guide our responses to GenAI.



Meet the Facilitator : Dr Sioux McKenna

Dr Sioux McKenna (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1202-5999>) is Professor of Higher Education Research at Rhodes University. She co-leads several research projects focused on higher education as a public good in an age of neoliberalism, working with universities in South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda and Namibia, alongside several universities in Europe. She researches all aspects of university life, from the rankings and academic publishing industries to questions about what knowledges and which kinds of knowers are valued in the academy and which are not. She has an NRF B rating and is a member of the Academy of Science South Africa. She publishes widely, including open-access books. She has won awards for her co-authored book Understanding Higher Education and for her contribution to internationalisation.

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