



Communication and Marketing Department
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Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

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UCT events and interview opportunities

- **New UCT research: Mammals, spiny plants and the origins of African savannas** – The origin and spread of savannas is one of the great mysteries of the earth's ecological histories. A new study, recently published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), involving Emeritus Professor William Bond, Professor Muthama Muasya and Dr Tristan Charles-Dominique of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cape Town (UCT) suggests that mammal herbivores play a key role in the spread of these grassy ecosystems that today cover about a fifth of the world's land surface. The new study analysed the distribution of nearly 2000 woody species from southern Africa and found that spiny plants are most common in arid savannas with high densities of mammal browsers.

One implication of the study, according to Professor Muthama Muasya, is that the loss of Africa's native browsing antelope may threaten the future of drier savannas, and lead to their replacement by dense woody scrub of little ecological or economic value.

Emeritus Professor William Bond and Professor Muthama Muasya are available for interviews.

- **Contemporary ballet: Asleep aesthetic or new Sleeping Beauty?** – The UCT Development and Alumni Department will host a talk by Mr Gerard Samuel, Director of the UCT School of Dance, a proud 82 year old Institution within the university. The talk forms part of UCT's Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series (DASS). Mr Samuel's talk will be discussing some issues around contemporary ballet including its contextual relevance to South African audiences today and its potential to challenge notions of whiteness and masculinity. The event will include some rare photographs and short excerpts of a live performance of the Paris Opera. For more information on this event, [click here](#).
- **South African College of Music (SACM) student showcase ensemble competition** – The South African College of Music will host the final round of the Schock Foundation Prize for chamber music. This is the ninth edition of this annual competition for ensemble playing, sponsored by the Schock Foundation. This final round will feature ensembles selected from the chamber music concerts throughout the year.
- **A systematic review of the literature that focuses on both the 'informal economy' and 'food security' in South Africa** – The African Centre for Cities presents a seminar series exploring the informal economy, food systems, food security and urbanisation. As cities rapidly urbanise, different pressures are placed on the food

system which has resulted in the least nutritious food being the most affordable. The second seminar of this series, *A systematic review of the literature that focuses on both the 'informal economy' and 'food security' in South Africa*, presented by Candice Kelly and Etai Even-Zahav, discusses a paper that performed a qualitative systematic review of research from South Africa that addresses both food security and the informal economy – the first of its kind. Candice Kelly's doctoral research focuses on people leading food system transitions in South Africa. She teaches into the MPhil at the Sustainability Institute, focusing on sustainable food systems. Etai Even-Zahav is also part of the Food Systems team at the Sustainability Institute. He is particularly interested in the informal food economy. For more information on this event, [click here](#).

- **School of Public Health and Family Medicine Research Day** – UCT's School of Public Health and Family Medicine, within the Health Sciences Faculty, will host a research day showcasing the recent research of staff and students specifically geared towards addressing poverty and inequality. Various departments will be presenting their work, including the Women's Health Research Unit (WHRU), the Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research (CIDER) as well as some of the faculty's postgraduate students. For more information on this event, the programme and the presenters, [click here](#).

Event/Topic	Details	Contact
New UCT research: Mammals, spiny plants and the origins of African savannas	A new study, recently published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), involving Emeritus Professor William Bond, Professor Muthama Muasya and Dr Tristan Charles-Dominique of UCT suggests that mammal herbivores play a key role in the spread of these grassy ecosystems that today cover about a fifth of the world's land surface.	Name: Katherine Wilson Email: katherine.wilson@uct.ac.za Tel: 0216502574 or Name: Jessica Loizides Email: jessica.loizides@uct.ac.za Tel: 0216505671
Contemporary ballet: Asleep aesthetic or new Sleeping Beauty?	Date: 13 September 2016 Time: 18h00 for 18h30 Venue: Kramer Law Building, Lecture Theatre 3, Middle Campus, UCT	Name: Jessica Loizides Email: jessica.loizides@uct.ac.za Tel: 0216505671
South African College of Music (SACM) student showcase ensemble competition	Date: 13 September 2016 Time: 20h15 Venue: The Baxter Concert Hall	Name: Sino Mdunjeni Email: sino.mdunjeni@uct.ac.za Tel: 0216504976
A systematic review of the literature that focuses on both the 'informal economy' and 'food security' in South Africa	Date: 14 September 2016 Time: 15h00-16h30 Venue: Studio 3, ENGEO Building, Upper Campus. UCT Speakers: Candice Kelly and Etai Even-Zahav	Name: Jessica Loizides Email: jessica.loizides@uct.ac.za Tel: 0216505671
School of Public Health and Family Medicine Research Day	Date: 15 September 2016 Time: 12h00-18h00 Venue: Wolfson Pavilion Lecture Theatre, UCT Medical School, Anzio Road, Observatory	Name: Linda Rhoda Email: linda.rhoda@uct.ac.za Tel: 0214066685

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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